



## King receives calls from Algerian president, Saudi crown prince

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received a telephone call from Algerian President Liamine Zouari congratulating him on his recovery and return home. President Zouari also congratulated the King on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr, wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. The King thanked President Zouari and congratulated him on the 'Eid. On Sunday night, the King received a telephone call from Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, who congratulated him on his recovery and expressed good wishes on the 'Eid. King Hussein voiced his good wishes to the prince, continued good health for King Fahd and further progress and prosperity for the Saudi Arabian people.

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## Crown Prince congratulates Turkish PM on 'Eid

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday received a phone call from Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, with whom he exchanged congratulations on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr. The Turkish prime minister voiced his happiness for His Majesty King Hussein's recovery and safe return home. Prince Hassan congratulated the Turkish premier on the formation of his new cabinet.

## Dutch to hear El Al crash testimony next week

AMSTERDAM (R) — Public hearings into the crash of an El Al cargo plane into a densely populated Amsterdam suburb in 1992 are to start on Jan. 27, a parliamentary committee set up to look into the accident said on Monday. The hearings mark the culmination of a four-month inquiry started in October to unravel the riddle of the aircraft's load. Dutch newspapers have said the plane, which ploughed through a tower block in Bijlmer, was carrying ingredients used in making sarin nerve gas. At least 50 people were killed in the crash.

## CIA to return missing East German spy files

BONN (R) — The United States will return to Germany foreign intelligence files from the former communist East Germany believed to include lists of the names of agents who spied for East Berlin, the government said on Monday. The files were bought by U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents nearly 10 years ago in the chaotic aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The announcement follows news that the German government's Gauck agency, which is charged with secret police archives, had cracked the code used by East German spy chiefs, which could lead to new arrests of cold war spies.

## Norway to drop charges against ex-Mossad agent

OSLO (AP) — The Mossad agent suspected of leading an Israeli hit team that murdered the wrong man in 1973 will probably never face trial in Norway due to lack of evidence, the Oslo state's attorney said Monday. On July 21, 1973, Moroccan waiter Ahmad Bouchikhi was shot and killed as he returned from the movies with his pregnant Norwegian wife in the town of Lillehammer. A small Israeli assassination team apparently misook Bouchikhi for Hassan Salameh, a PLO intelligence chief suspected of masterminding the killing of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Five men identified as Mossad agents served brief prison terms for murder before they were pardoned.

## London denies intervention in Sierra Leone

LONDON (AFP) — The British Foreign Office on Monday denied reports that a British warship had intervened in the civil war in Sierra Leone. "The U.K. has not taken any military action and does not intend to," a spokeswoman said. Sierra Leonean rebel commander Sam Bockarie earlier Monday accused the British navy of shelling its positions in Freetown. A British frigate, HMS Newcastle, is currently anchored off the coast of Freetown.



# King returns today

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN — Rain or shine, more than one million Jordanians are expected to hit the streets today to welcome His Majesty King Hussein back home to Jordan after a six-month absence.

The nationwide arrangements for celebrating the King's arrival at around 3:00 p.m. were nearing completion Monday for the long-awaited moment between the leader and his people.

During his late night tour of sites prepared for the event, Prime Minister Faysel Tarawneh described the mood in the country as highly emotional, adding that it was an exciting moment, especially after such an extended absence. "Everybody has waited too long to receive His Majesty back in Amman in good health, and that's the most important thing," said Tarawneh.

"His Majesty, as always, has been a warrior and a believer, and we thank God that he is coming back in good health to resume his work as our leader," the premier added.

Stressed how the King has followed up closely on all developments while undergoing treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the U.S., Tarawneh said, "Even during the King's treatment by chemotherapy, he was on top of everything."

"He was in direct contact with HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and myself, and all the institutions in Jordan, and fulfilling his role as the country's leader," the premier said.

"But now His Majesty is back in Jordan, and that will definitely change the whole picture and the whole mood of the people because everyone is overjoyed and very optimistic," the prime

minister said.

Asked about the comprehensive changes that the King is expected to make before returning in March to the U.S. for medical check-ups, Tarawneh responded, "I think His Majesty was very decisive about that in his official remarks that were issued in a statement late Sunday."

The premier was referring to a statement issued by the Royal Court wherein King Hussein denied news reports alleging that he had reached agreements with U.S. officials while in Washington on sweeping reforms that would determine the future of Jordan and its leadership.

"There are some political and economic issues that the King is expected to tackle, in addition to some regional issues," he told journalists Monday evening.

Asked to comment on the issue of succession raised recently by the media, Tarawneh said: "As the King has stated, he is the only one to decide on such issues; he was very clear in Sunday's letter."

The King addressed the nation Saturday in a televised speech from London where he has been recuperating.

The King announced he would initiate a programme of sweeping reforms with the "initiative, resolve, determination and strength that you have always known in me."

Commenting on possible reform measures, a university professor told AFP Sunday that the country's current economic crisis would make the "struggle against corruption more of a priority than ever."

As for public reaction to new measures, the professor said, "Jordanians are ready to live modestly as long as their country is run by trustworthy offi-

## Prince Abdullah congratulates Jordanians on King's return

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah on Monday congratulated the Jordanian people on His Majesty King Hussein's recovery and imminent return home. In a telephone interview with Jordan Television, Prince Abdullah thanked God for King Hussein's recovery and safe return. The Prince said words cannot reflect the immense joy all Jordanians feel as they await the King's arrival. He said the last several months have been very difficult and have taken a heavy toll on all Jordanians. "Every hour was as heavy as a day, and every day was as heavy as a month," said Prince Abdullah, who added that "we prayed to God for the King's recovery."

Qatar, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the crown prince of Bahrain.

Several other Arab and foreign leaders may visit Jordan during the coming few days to wish the King well.

Dubai announced Monday that Crown Prince and Defence Minister General Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum is due to visit Jordan on Wednesday to convey the King's greetings of the emir of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, and vice president, prime minister and ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Sheikh Mohammad will be accompanied by a high-level delegation. The King received several cables and telephone calls from leaders and officials from all over the world.

On Monday, Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon congratulated the King ahead of his return. "Your presence is needed to strengthen cooperation between Israel and Jordan and the peace process for all the residents in the region," Sharon said in his greeting message for 'Eid Al Fitr.

Arab leaders expected to join Jordan's celebrations and greet the King today are the emir of

## Yemen said in touch with captors of Westerners

SANAA (R) — Yemeni authorities were on Monday in contact with the kidnappers of a British couple and a Dutch family of four, a Dutch embassy official said. "We are in contact with Yemeni authorities. We know that they are in contact with the kidnappers. Contact is going on," said the official.

He said the Dutch family, including two boys aged six and seven, and the British couple had been travelling in three cars from northern Yemen to the capital Sanaa when they were kidnapped on Sunday.

He said the men worked at a hospital in the town of Sadaah north of Sanaa. The Dutch family had been living in Yemen for several years, he added.

He refused to comment on whether Yemen had assured Britain and the Netherlands that it would not use force to free them.

He said there were no indications the kidnapping was a similar case to last month's abduction of 16 Western tourists by Islamist militants. Four members of that group — three Britons and an Australian — were killed during a shootout between the militants and Yemeni government forces.

A Yemeni interior ministry official had earlier said the government had assured Britain and the Netherlands it would not use force. He said the hostages were believed to be held by tribesmen in a northern area called Tati.

"We believe the kidnappers are tribesmen wanting the release of one of their people who is in prison," the official said.

The British embassy in Sanaa referred calls about the

## 'Arafat considers delaying statehood in deal with U.S., EU'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Yasser Arafat is considering a plan to delay his unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood from May until December 1999 in exchange for clear U.S. and European backing for Palestinian self-determination, diplomats and Palestinian officials said on Monday.

Western diplomats said the United States, with European backing, had proposed a five-point proposal under which Arafat would agree to put off for several months his intention to unilaterally declare Palestinian statehood on May 4, when interim peace accords with Israel expire.

The proposal reflects U.S., European and Palestinian concerns that an independence declaration would spark a major confrontation with Israel and strengthen the hand of

nationalist hardliners in Israeli elections scheduled for May 17.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned that his government would respond to a unilateral Palestinian proclamation of statehood by occupying parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip still under Israel's control.

In exchange for postponing the statehood declaration until the end of the year, the United States and the 15-nation European Union would declare more clearly than in the past their support for Palestinian self-determination, the diplomats and senior Palestinian officials said.

The plan also calls for Israel to freeze construction of Jewish settlements in occupied areas pending the outcome of negotiations on the borders and exact powers of the Palestinian

entity, they said.

The deal requires these final status negotiations to begin immediately following the second round of the Israeli elections on June 1 with a target date for completion of Dec. 31.

Finally, the proposal stipulates that Israel must fully implement the U.S.-brokered Wye River interim peace accord which Netanyahu suspended last month, citing what he said were Palestinian violations of the deal.

The agreement, which requires Israel to withdraw from more of the West Bank, sparked a revolt by hardline nationalists in Netanyahu's coalition and led last month to the calling of early Israeli elections for May.

Given the deadlock in negotiations with Netanyahu's government, Palestinians insist they have the right to simply

declare the creation of their state when existing peace accords expire in May.

Senior Palestinian officials said Arafat wanted to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton, hopefully in March or April, before making a final decision on postponing the declaration.

Arafat is also insistent that he will not postpone the achievement of statehood beyond Dec. 31, they said.

"At that date, whatever happens, a Palestinian state will be proclaimed," one senior official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

A declaration of statehood on Dec. 31 would coincide with the launch of Bethlehem 2000 festivities being organized by the Palestinian National Authority for the start of the new Millennium.

It would also mark the 35th

anniversary of Arafat's Fatah movement, celebrated on Jan. 1 in commemoration of the first military operation claimed by the group against Israel.

Netanyahu has focused the election campaign of his right-wing Likud Party on playing up the perceived dangers of Palestinian statehood and charging that opposition Labour Party leader Ehud Barak will make too many concessions to Arafat.

For Arafat, the Israeli election campaign poses an additional dilemma, a senior Palestinian official said.

If the Palestinians postpone their statehood declaration, Netanyahu will likely claim this as a victory for his hardline stance, while going ahead with the proclamation will help him rally support from the far right in the elections, he said.

## PKK leader says may resume armed struggle Italian premier declares Ocalan case 'closed'

ROME (AP) — Italy's premier on Monday pronounced the tangled case of Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan closed and said he has no idea where the guerrilla chieftain has gone.

But Turkey, where Ocalan is wanted as a terrorist, refused to believe it and sharply criticised Italy for letting him slip away.

"It is not possible for the Italians not to know where he went," Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem told NTV television.

Ocalan left Rome in a private plane Saturday after two months waiting in vain for political asylum. The Kurdish leader had been looking for a European base, saying he wanted to turn his guerrilla movement into a peaceful, political one.

"I was convinced that a unilateral cease-fire could have become definitive," he said in an open letter published Monday in Italian newspapers.

strongly fear that after this failure

courage, above all on the part of the European Union, that there is no alternative to returning to war."

Ocalan's destination was secret. Estonia, Ukraine, Belarus and South Africa, all mentioned as possible havens for Ocalan, all denied knowingly admitting him.

Libya is among the other countries rumoured as possibilities.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov told reporters in Russia that secret services there were looking into allegations that Ocalan might have travelled via Moscow to South Africa or Libya — but haven't found any proof yet.

Turkey's Premier Bulent Ecevit claimed that Ocalan had landed in an airport outside Moscow, Turkey's Anatolia news agency reported.

Russian authorities would expel him if he were found, Ecevit was quoted as saying after meeting with Russian Ambassador Alexander Lebedev.

Ecevit said the ambassador told him Ocalan could have entered Russia with a false passport.

"I don't know where Ocalan is, and I don't care," D'Alema said Monday. "The case is closed."

Ocalan leads the Kurdish Labour Party, or PKK, which has been fighting for Kurdish autonomy in southeastern Turkey for 14 years. The conflict has killed about 37,000 people.

Turkey pressed Italy hard to extradite Ocalan, who is on trial in absentia on capital charges. But Italy refused, citing a ban on extraditing suspects to countries where they face the death penalty.

Ocalan came to Italy on Nov. 12 hoping to muster Europe-wide support for a negotiated settlement to the Kurdish conflict. But he failed, in part because Turkey said it would never negotiate with him.

Things were also complicated by the fact that Ocalan is wanted in Germany,

Germany, fearing unrest in its large immigrant population, tried to steer clear of the affair.

In a letter to D'Alema, Ocalan said he hopes to return to Europe someday, "at a time when the conditions are matured enough to end this struggle with a just and lasting peace."

D'Alema released the letter at a briefing Monday.

"Leaving Rome is not a step backwards," it said. "On the contrary, it is taken to create the opportunity for a future initiative on the political solution to the Kurdish issue."

The Ocalan affair soured relations between Italy and Turkey, where an unofficial boycott on Italian goods has been in place.

"The question is how long it will take the man on the street to buy made-in-Italy goods," the Italian ambassador in Turkey, Massimiliano Bandini, said in Ankara. "But I believe they'll do so soon."



## Iranian leader Khamenei urges factions to end row over murders

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday called on conservatives and moderates to end a bitter row over the killings of dissidents.

Khamenei's call for calm came amid public concern over a new wave of killings in Tehran which did not appear to be political in nature.

The row and the new killings have created an atmosphere of uncertainty among Tehran residents and featured strongly in newspapers as Iran prepares to mark the 20th anniversary of its Islamic revolution next month.

"Our dear and pious nation must stand hand in hand behind our committed officials and not allow their unity to be breached," Khamenei told worshippers at mass prayers marking the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

"Those who would like to serve their short-term interests by making waves in this calm ocean and causing disturbances should know that they will gain

nothing from this," Khamenei told worshippers in a sermon carried by Tehran Radio.

The dissidents' murders and revelations that death squads, including agents from the conservative-run intelligence ministry, were involved have provoked an open row between moderates backing President Mohammad Khatami and his conservative opponents.

The row has also led to an attack by Islamists who prevented a senior pro-Khatami cleric from delivering a Friday prayer sermon in the central city of Isfahan.

Moderates have demanded a purge of the intelligence ministry and suggested that hardliners carried out the murders of dissidents to destabilise Khatami's reformist government.

Conservatives have denied the charges. Some hardliners have appeared on state television and accused Khatami's backers of involvement in the killings, in which two outspo-

ken dissidents and at least two liberal writers died. Another writer died under mysterious circumstances and a fourth is presumed dead after going missing.

A committee set up by Khatami to probe the killings urged an end to the recriminations and said late on Sunday that none of Iran's mainstream factions were behind the murders.

"The decisions of those who organised and carried out the murders were taken in their own circles, and in depth investigations show that no political groupings or factions had any involvement in these acts," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted the state committee as saying in a statement.

Khamenei urged calm at Friday prayers, but he also called on clerics not to raise "divisive issues" in sermons.

He was referring to the Isfahan incident in which stone-throwing hardline activists stopped a sermon by Ayatollah

Jalaluddin Taheri, the only big-city cleric who openly backs Khatami's liberal political and social reforms.

Meanwhile, there was wide concern among Tehran residents after more gruesome murders in which a prominent elderly engineer and his wife, and the wife of a prize-winning translator were killed at their homes by unknown intruders.

Newspapers have given wide coverage to the murders, in which no suspects have been arrested, and the earlier killing of a prominent physician who lived in the same high-security Tehran district where Khatami's residence is located.

Newspapers also reported that Reza Alijani, editor of the liberal Islamist monthly Iran-e Farda, had received death threats by unknown telephone callers who claimed to be from a little-known hardline group which has hailed the dissidents' killing and voiced similar threats against Khatami.



'EID IN IRAQ: Iraqi women on Monday visit the grave of a relative at a Baghdad cemetery during the 'Eid Al Fitr festival, ending the fasting month of Ramadan. Muslims mark the end of the Ramadan by praying near the tombs of relatives and friends (AFP photo)

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Israeli police, Arab youths clash

TIRA (AFP) — Israeli police clashed with Arab Israeli youths overnight, leaving 12 persons injured in the town of Tira, police officials said on Monday. The violence erupted when two van loads of police entered the town to arrest suspected car thieves, they said. Dozens of youths, gathered for the start of the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, threw stones at the policemen. Six policemen and six demonstrators were hurt in the melee, which ended when police reinforcements arrived and local officials intervened to calm the protesters, police said. Tira lies about 25 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv in a region where many Arab Israelis live.

#### Netanyahu says no joint meeting set

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday no meeting between Israeli, Palestinian, and U.S. officials had been scheduled, despite Palestinian announcements talks would be held next month. Asked whether trilateral talks on reviving stalled Middle East peace efforts had been set, Netanyahu told reporters: "There was some talk about it, not with me, but some talk, peripheral talk. Nothing has been concluded on that matter." On Sunday, chief Palestinian negotiator Suh Ebrek said senior Israeli and Palestinian officials would meet in Washington in February with U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross to try to restart peace efforts frozen by Israel.

#### Rewards for bad driving in UAE

DUBAI (AFP) — Police stopping bad drivers in Dubai will reward them with sweets and greeting cards Monday and Tuesday during the 'Eid Al Fitr feast marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. The authorities announced the "friendly tokens" as part of the traditional leniency during the holidays. "Many motorists come to Dubai and the northern emirates from Gulf Cooperation Council countries. They don't know the roads well and may commit traffic offences," a traffic department official told Monday's Gulf News.

#### All Arab issues should be on agenda — Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — An official Syrian newspaper called Monday for Arab ministers to conduct an overall examination of the problems of the Arab World when they meet in Cairo on Jan. 24. The party daily Al Baath said it is important that the meeting should be "of a quality to face up to the challenges." The participants "need to have a joint vision, so that the Arab Nation is not split, and to adopt practical steps to make Arab action more effective," the paper said. "The Arab Nation is currently confronted with great dangers, of which Israel remains the permanent one, but other sources of peril have shown that they interconnect with the aggressive Israeli policy," it said, in a clear allusion to December's U.S.-British air raids against Iraq.

## Russians say West trained Iranian nuclear specialists

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian FSB, the former KGB, accused Western nations Monday in the press of having made significant transfers of technology to Iran.

"The leaders of the nuclear industry and the Iranian missile programmes were trained at the best American,

Canadian, French and German universities and Iranian firms are equipped with Western material which under certain conditions permits them to organise missile production," the FSB chief press officer General Alexander Zdanovich said in the daily Sevodnia.

The statement from a rep-

resentative of the Russian security establishment, were a response to renewed accusations from Washington that Russia is supplying sensitive technology to Tehran.

Russia has denied this, saying it has acted in accordance with international law.

The FSB official men-

tioned equipment supplied by the German firm Bolez and Schafer, bought by Iran in 1996 and which he said could be used to make ballistic missiles and the engines for them.

He also said Iran has "electroerosion" equipment supplied by the Swiss firms Roboform, Robofill and

AGIE, permitting the manufacture of parts for liquid-fuel-powered missile engines.

Zdanovich said Japanese firms had also supplied equipment while most of the computer programmes used in Iran were made in the United States.

Washington which

slapped economic sanctions in July on seven Russian institutes and companies accused of links with Iran, and on Tuesday announced more sanctions against three Moscow research institutes. The United States also threatened to cancel some space cooperation projects with Moscow.

## Hamas leader predicts collapse of Israel in 2026

CAIRO (AFP) — Israel will collapse in the year 2026, a Palestinian Islamist predicted in a newspaper article published Monday.

"With the will of God, our [Israeli] enemy will disappear in three decades," the founder of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, wrote in the London-based Arabic weekly Al Wasat. "I believe there are only 27 years left before Israel comes to an end."

He said he had reached this conclusion thanks to his understanding of verses in the Koran dealing with the Jewish community.

Yassin admitted that security cooperation between the Palestinian National Authority, Israel and the United States following the October Wye

River accord had "thwarted a number of Hamas operations" against Israel.

Hamas, which opposes the peace deal with Israel, has been responsible for most anti-Israeli attacks in recent years.

Yassin said he had obtained "large scale financial and moral support" from several Arab and African countries he visited during a trip abroad last year. He gave no further details.

Elsewhere in his article he attacked the Islamist Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

He said their decision not to allow women to study was the result either of "ignorance" or of the influence of "an outside party which wants to distort the image of Islam." He did not elaborate.

## Israel urges EU to include it in scientific programme

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel appealed to European Union (EU) members on Monday not to link its inclusion in the latest EU research and development programme to its peacemaking with the Palestinians.

Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said the EU had been blocking the "timely signature" of the Fifth Framework Programme over progress in the peace process. He warned such a move could adversely affect Israeli-European ties.

EU officials have been at odds over whether to exclude Israel from the scientific research and development programme to sanction it over the peacemaking deadlock with the Palestinians.

Israel signed a land-for-security deal with the Palestinians in

October but froze its implementation in December, citing alleged Palestinian violations. Israeli elections scheduled for May are another obstacle to reviving peace moves.

The EU is expected to start issuing tenders for the R&D programme in February. Israel took part in more than 350 projects under the last such programme. "I believe that the linkage of technological cooperation to a political agenda is doomed to failure, all the more so, when Israel faces internal elections," Sharansky wrote in a letter sent to European ambassadors in Israel.

"It is liable to taint the Fifth Framework Programme as politically oriented and may bear negative influence on the entire Israeli-European relation-

ship, especially on the industrial and economic levels," the letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, said.

Under the programme the EU allots 14.96 billion euros (\$17.4 billion) for joint research projects over the next four years.

Israel was the only non-European country to take part in the previous EU R&D programme. The EU is Israel's biggest trading partner.

Germany, which has been pushing to include Israel, said Bonn wanted to get the programme under way.

"We don't see any link between political proceedings here in Israel and these technical cooperation programmes," a German embassy spokesman in Tel Aviv told Reuters.

A French embassy

spokesman said Israel's participation would be desirable.

But he said such a decision "has a political dimension in the context of the resumption of the peace process" and implementation of the Wye River land-for-security deal.

"This double approach will be reviewed by the Council of Ministers," the spokesman said. The council was scheduled to meet on Jan. 24-25 in Brussels but it is uncertain whether it will render a decision on Israel's participation.

The cost to join the programme is based on a country's gross domestic product. Israel would pay some 40 million euros (\$46.4 million) annually for the next four years, EU officials said.

## Iraq reinforces troops in south — Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Iraq has boosted its military deployment in the south of the country but so far without posing a danger to neighbouring Kuwait, the emirate's defence minister said Monday.

Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, who is also deputy prime minister, said Kuwait must be ready for "all possibilities and dangers."

In southern Iraq, Baghdad has reinforced its

troops, including the elite Republican Guards, special units and missile launchers, Sheikh Salem said, quoted by the official news agency KUNA.

The Iraqi deployment "does not constitute danger at the time being," said the defence minister, who also denied that Iraqi warplanes had violated Kuwaiti airspace.

But he said Kuwait had "reinforced its self

threats."

Kuwait is not responsible for footing the bill of any Western military build-up in the region, "except for hospitality necessities," the defence minister added.

He also said the emirate had "its own methods" for dealing with any influx of Iraqi refugees in case of renewed military strikes, following last month's Desert Fox air and missile attacks by the United States and Britain.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 477111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

12:00 ..... "Leo The Lion"  
01:00 ..... French Cartoon  
01:30 Feature Film — "Just Perfect"  
15:00 ..... The American Chat Show  
15:45 ..... Circus  
16:15 ..... Vid Kids  
16:45 ..... French Film  
18:15 ..... Omar Ben Abdul Aziz  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:35 ..... Comedy — Step by Step  
20:00 ..... What Would You Do?  
20:30 ..... Our Mutual Friend  
21:30 Mini Series "Playing the Field" Ep.3  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 Feature film — "Marked for Death"

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:10 ..... Fajr  
06:31 ..... (Sunrise) Doha  
11:46 ..... Dhuhur  
14:37 ..... 'Asr  
17:01 ..... Maghreb  
18:22 ..... 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
4632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366  
Anglican Church Tel.

4624853/4624811.  
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox  
Church Tel. 4771751.  
Amman International Church  
Tel. 5865897  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 5688403  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 5811295  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter  
Day Saints Tel. 4654932  
St. John the Baptist at De la  
Salle College Tel. 5661757  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 4637440  
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.  
4646138  
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh  
Tel. 5920146  
The United Catholic Church  
Tel. 4624757

The English-Language  
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190  
Evangelical Free Church Tel.  
4892679  
The Baptist Church Tel.  
4628052  
The Armenian Catholic  
Church Tel. 4771331  
The American Orthodox  
Church Tel. 4775361

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department  
of Meteorology  
It will be cold, cloudy and rainy

with snow expected to fall over  
Ajloun and Sharah mountain.  
Winds westerly moderate to  
active. In Aqaba, it will be cold  
and rainy. Winds northerly moderate  
to active and seas rough.

Amman ..... 05/10  
Aqaba ..... 11/19  
Deserts ..... 04/12  
Jordan Valley ..... 10/18

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 11, Aqaba 21 Humidity  
readings: Amman 93 per cent.  
Aqaba 50 per cent.

Following are the temperatures  
expected today in the following  
areas:  
Ajloun ..... 02/10  
Jerash ..... 03/12  
Um Qays ..... 02/11  
Madaba ..... 03/09  
Petra ..... 02/13  
Dead Sea ..... 09/19

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Yusef Faqih ..... 4390104  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shalhab ..... 4752405

Dr. Makhles Halseh ..... 5519220  
Dr. Mohammad Lubdah ..... 5167914  
AMMAN:  
Firas Pharmacy ..... 5661912  
Al Salam Pharmacy ..... 4636730  
Mayadah Pharmacy ..... 5337004  
Ruka Al Dawa Pharmacy ..... 5536169

IRBID:  
Dr. Issam Salih ..... (02)246858  
Fou'ad Pharmacy ..... (02)275360

ZARQA:  
Dr. Issa Omari ..... (09)901266  
Palestine Pharmacy ..... (09)983562

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 4637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 5661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue  
4630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police, 192, 4621111, 4637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 4617101  
Blood Bank ..... 4775121  
Highway Police ..... 5343402  
Traffic Police ..... 4896390  
Public Security Dept. ..... 4630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 5605800  
Price Complaints ..... 5661176  
Water & Sewerage Complaints ..... 4897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints  
4787111  
Telephone Information (directory

assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 0132  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs  
..... 4623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs ..... 5661101  
Jordan Television ..... 4773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 4774111  
Water Authority ..... 5680100  
J. Electricity Authority ..... 5815615  
Electric Power Co. ..... 4636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 44-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 44-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special  
Surgery ..... 5921199  
The Islamic, Abdi ..... 5666131/7  
Husseini Medical Centre ..... 5856856  
Luzmila ..... 4630195  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 4644281/6  
Akileh Maternity ..... 4643441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 4642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 4636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 5607071  
Soraisani Hospital ..... 5607550  
University Hospital ..... 5353444  
Al-Musasher Hospital ..... 5667227/9  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 5664164/6  
Italian, Al-Mubajreen ..... 4777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 4775111/25  
Army, Marka ..... 4891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 5157100  
Amal Hospital ..... 5607155

Al Amal Cancer Centre ..... 5353000

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986731  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital  
..... (09)990990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Roman Catholic Hospital  
..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafess Hospital  
..... (02)7101372, (02)7103101  
Rosary Sisters Hospital  
..... (02)7102831, (02)7102011  
Specialty Hospital ..... (02)7103100

AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)2040111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information  
department at the Queen Alia  
International Airport Tel.  
(44)53200-5, where it should  
always be verified. Information on  
other flights can be supplied on  
phone 44 (52700). Information on  
Royal Wings flights can be supplied  
on phone 4875201-5

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ..... Sanaa (RU)  
07:30 ..... Damascus (RU)  
08:40 ..... Jeddah (RU)  
09:50 ..... Tehran (RU)  
10:05 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RU)  
10:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RU)  
16:20 ..... Cairo (RU)  
17:30 ..... London, Frankfurt (RU)  
18:15 ..... Chicago, Shannon (RU)  
23:10 ..... Beirut (RU)

Other Flights  
12:30 ..... Aden (TY)  
14:35 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
18:00 ..... Dubai, Damascus (KE)  
18:40 ..... Beirut (ME)  
18:45 ..... Kiev (6U)  
19:05 ..... Paris (AF)  
20:25 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:40 ..... Cairo (MS)  
22:25 ..... London, Damascus (BA)  
23:35 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
23:55 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
00:55 ..... Bucharest (RO)  
02:00 ..... Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:30 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA)  
(RW)  
11:10 Aqaba (arriving at Marka  
Airport) (RW)  
16:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka  
Airport) (RW)  
18:45 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA)

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:25 Amsterdam, New York (RU)  
11:05 ..... Vienna, Frankfurt  
(RU)  
12:00 ..... Brussels, Paris (RU)  
12:00 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RU)  
12:15 ..... London (RU)  
12:30 ..... Cairo (RU)  
19:35 ..... Beirut (RU)  
20:30 ..... Jeddah (RU)  
20:45 ..... Damascus (RU)  
21:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)

Other Flights  
07:10 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
13:30 ..... Aden (TY)  
15:35 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
19:00 ..... Dubai (EK)  
19:40 ..... Kiev (6U)  
20:00 ..... Beirut (ME)  
21:10 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
21:40 ..... Cairo (MS)  
00:35 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
01:55 ..... Bucharest (RO)  
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Air-  
port) (RW)  
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-  
port) (RW)  
16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Air-  
port) (RW)  
20:30 ..... Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)



## Jordan celebrates 'Eid Al Fitr



PRINCE HASSAN GREETING PUBLIC: HRH Crown Prince Hassan meets with public and private sector representatives at Raghadan Palace. Here, he shakes the hand of Sima Bahous, director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan yesterday joined the rest of the Islamic World in celebrating the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday bringing to an end of the Holy Month of Ramadan and marking the occasion with prayers in mosques around the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, attended morning prayers at the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman with Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Zeid Rifai and Abdul Hadi Majali, and

dozens of army and security services chiefs, who joined Jordanian worshippers.

Imam Ahmad Helayel called on Muslims to end their differences and unite their efforts to serve the nation, noting that the fast should prompt Muslims to sacrifice, exercise solidarity and extend help to the unfortunate and the poor.

He also voiced the worshippers' thanks to God for the recovery of His Majesty King Hussein who is due to return to Amman today after a six-month stay in the United States where he under-

went chemotherapy for a non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

After the prayer service, Prince Hassan met worshippers who expressed good wishes to him on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr.

Prince Hassan later visited the tombs of his grandfather, the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom, and his father, the late King Talal. He also visited the tomb of the late Queen Mother, Queen Zein. At the tombs, he recited verses from the Holy Koran and laid wreaths on the tombs. The tombs were also visited

by other members of the Royal Family.

The Regent met later at Raghadan Palace with representatives of public and private institutions, senior officials and chief military and security services personnel as well as heads of diplomatic missions, tribal chiefs and religious leaders, who expressed their best wishes on the occasion.

All government departments and public institutions will remain closed until Thursday morning in observance of the 'Eid Al Fitr feast.

## Rain to keep falling on thirsty Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rain at last came to Jordan after a long spell of drought that earlier this week prompted the government to announce strict measures to deal with an emergency water shortage.

According to the Department of Meteorology, more rainfall is expected today and may continue through Wednesday.

A department official told the Jordan Times that light snow is expected to fall Tuesday on the high mountains of Ajloun in the north and the Sharrah mountains in the south near Petra.

He said the daytime temperatures Tuesday will creep towards a high of 10 degrees Celsius, dropping to a low of five degrees at night. Cool temperatures will be accompanied by strong gusts of wind.

Sources at the Ministries

of Agriculture and Water expressed hope that the rain will mark the start of the actual winter season to replenish the aquifers and the reservoirs, now depleted to less than half their capacity.

According to water ministry statistics, the King Talal Dam, the largest in the country with a 72 million cubic metre (mcm) capacity held 32 mcm before the past two days' rainfall. Zeglad dam was measured at 1.2 mcm out of a capacity of 3.5 mcm. Wadi Araba Dam 6 mcm out of 16 mcm. The Wadi Shueib, Kafra and desert dams have been reported to be nearly empty.

Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha said after a Cabinet session Saturday that the government intends to establish a fund to ensure JD12 million in interest-free loans

to livestock breeders in order to help them buy barley and grain at reduced prices.

He said state-grazing reserves will be open to the public, while the Ministries of Water and Irrigation and Agriculture will provide water for livestock from desert wells. The water ministry will continue to ration water supplies.

The government also announced that water pumped for agricultural use will be reduced by 50 per cent in the Southern Ghor, 20 per cent in the Northern Ghor and 10 per cent in the Central Ghor as part of the rationing system.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation plans to give priority to potable water, with a 10 mcm increase in the amount of water pumped to Amman

from the Yarmouk River and Lake Tiberias. The two water sources supply the country with 60 to 80 mcm annually.

The Water Authority will start storing water from the Yarmouk River in the Karamah Dam which has a 19 mcm capacity.

Last October the government solicited around 50 local, Arab and foreign firms to pre-qualify for a \$730 million build-operate water extraction system to draw water from the Disi aquifer in the south and pump it to the capital. The project requires the construction of a 325-kilometre pipeline to Amman. It is expected that the Disi can supply the capital with 100 mcm annually by the year 2005.

### PRINCESS AISHA VISITS SOS VILLAGE: HRH

Princess Aisha deputises for Her Majesty Queen Noor during a visit Monday to children at the SOS village at Tabarbour, where she distributed gifts to the children on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr Feast (Petra photo)



DIFFICULT CHOICES: Shoppers rush to capitalise on 'Eid Al Fitr bargains in downtown Amman and find 'just the right thing' for the holidays (Photos by Yousef Allan)

### Businessmen encourage agricultural investment in Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Director General of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) Yahya Bakkour has called on Jordanian investors and the business community to invest in Sudan's agricultural sector.

Bakkour said Sudan's fertile soil and abundant water supplies should make the country attractive to agricultural investments.

Addressing a meeting held at the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) in Amman, Bakkour said that Jordan, like other Arab countries, faces a growing demand for food production in view of the growing population and the limited arable land and water resources.

Sudan's fertile soil, huge water supplies and labour force should be attractive to Arab investors, said Bakkour, who was commenting on the recent conclusion of a Jordanian-Sudanese agreement on agricultural investment in

Sudan.

He said the agreement was a manifestation of common Arab action and an exemplary step towards inter-Arab cooperation and economic integration.

Bakkour said that the AOAD will immediately embark on the preparation of a plan to help the Jordanian-Sudanese agreement to be implemented successfully.

Bakkour said some projects that were started earlier in Sudan failed to succeed because they had no scientific basis, but the majority of projects achieved excellent results.

JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa echoed Bakkour's call on investors to seriously consider investing in Sudan's agricultural sector. He said the two sides have formed a committee to explain to investors procedures for starting investment within the framework of the Jordanian-Sudanese agreement.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### FILM

• "L.A. Confidential" at Books@Cafe, Jabal Amman at 8:30 p.m. (Tel.: 4650457).

#### EXHIBITIONS

• Exhibition of ceramics, sculpture, and abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian, Iraqi, Syrian, Lebanese, and Sudanese artists at Hammourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5536098), until Jan. 25.

• "The Warm Winter" — works by several artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Uthaina (Tel. 5526932), until Feb. 1.

• The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/2), until Jan. 28.

## Life proves hard under the tent

The dwindling ranks of Jordan's bedouins share mixed views about urban lifestyles

By Hind-Lara Mango

AMMAN — For Um Gublan and her three daughters, all of whom hail from the Abbadi clan, one of Jordan's largest tribes, herding livestock and farming is their only way of life, their only source of income.

From April till November, they reside under a black goat-hair tent on land which they rent for JD100 a year in the affluent heart of Deir Ghbar, near Abdoun.

These lands, once main grazing pastures for many shepherds, have developed into affluent urban neighbourhoods over the last decade under a rapid urbanisation process that has outpaced natural development of such sites, leaving behind or squeezing out many seasonal tent dwellers, sociologists say.

Unplanned urbanisation, specifically in the western parts of the capital, has replaced vast areas of fertile farmland with white-stone buildings and posh villas, they add. But for many like Um Gublan, life continues to follow the same traditional patterns despite occasional complaints.

"Life is too hard under the tent," said Um Gublan's 20-year-old daughter Nawal as she sat sipping sweet tea on a crispy cold winter evening.

"My brothers have office jobs since they have grown disenchanted with our traditional way of life," she says. "So, my mother, sister and myself have to do the planting, herding and harvesting."

The family owns a house in the industrial city which is occupied by one married brother. The other brother works at the Public Security Department. Um Gublan said that more members of her clan are opting for per-

manent settlement instead of putting up with the hassles of having to cope with running water, a sewage network and electricity.

"This life is too tough, if we could afford an alternative we would settle," said the family matriarch, who still dons the flowing traditional black robe.

**'This life is too tough, if we could afford an alternative we would settle'**  
— Um Gublan

She said her immediate family could barely make ends meet as fodder had become too expensive. They now rely on the money they make from selling yoghurt and vegetables to survive.

Some sociologists and anthropologists say such an odd mix of affluent villas juxtaposed with tents is a consequence of Jordan's accelerated urbanisation process.

"Urbanisation in Jordan did not take the same natural course followed in most big Arab cities," said anthropologist Lamia Ra'i, who for years has studied the lifestyle of the bedouins.

"Some areas in Jordan did not undergo the natural urbanisation process witnessed by other Arab capitals where small socio-economic urban units (Harat) developed into cities, Abdoun, Deir Ghbar and Khaldia are some exam-

ples of that," Ra'i told the Jordan Times.

Other anthropologists attribute this phenomenon to land-endowed bedouins who sold what were once remote plots of land in Western Amman to Jordanians who accrued wealth during the 1970s oil boom. These Jordanians, working in handsomely-paid jobs in the Gulf, sent home hundreds of thousands of dinars to buy land and build villas and flats, fuelling a construction boom.

As the land was no longer used for agricultural purposes, the

bedouins were forced to dismiss farmhands and other labourers who made the land productive.

"I personally believe the bedouins we see today in urban areas are those who either worked for wealthy bedouins, or are the poorer members of the tribe who were marginalised and found themselves jobless as a consequence of the selling of land," said anthropologist Salwa Amad.

Amad added that the "social polarisation" which has been taking place in Jordan for the past 40 years has marginalised rural and bedouin communities who originally owned or worked on such agricultural land.

"Actually, it is not the Bedouins who are an oddity but rather the new villas which were built at a fast pace in these areas," explains Ra'i.

A few kilometres up the road from Um Gublan, Abu Mohammad lives in a similar tent in Wadi Abdoun near the fortress-like American embassy.

All 12 members of his family

work to sustain their way of life: his wife and children milk 70 heads of livestock from April through June.

"We gather around 20 kilos of milk every day during the milking season," grins Abu Mohammad, showing off uneven brown teeth through his capricious smile.

The family also processes and sells white cheese.

Herding, their main source of income, is carried out simultaneously and extends into November.

In April, Abu Mohammad rents a dunum (1,000 square metres) of land for JD10 per month and plants it with cucumber, okra, squash, and zucchini that is sold by his sons along the main roads in surrounding areas.

And unlike Um Gublan, he says he is satisfied with his lifestyle.

"I never dream of owning a villa like that one across the street," said Abu Mohammad pointing a work-calloused finger in the direction of a nearby four-storey villa.

"We have been given roles in our lives. If we did not plant and milk sheep and everybody wanted to be rich, then how would people survive?" says his wife, Um Mohammad.

Ra'i said Abu Mohammad and Um Gublan are examples of bedouin families that have become semi-urbanised, relying on livestock and farming. If this life style does not suit them, they automatically settle but continue farming.

"A bedouin keeps to this life-style as long as it sustains him. He forms an urban unit rotating among the tent, house and land," Ra'i said in an interview.

"And they continue to live in tents for the sake of their livestock," she says.

"But there is a link between the continuity of the bedouin lifestyle and seasonal fluctuations of income. Maintaining a livestock economy guarantees economic subsistence."

**'I never dream of owning a villa like that one across the street'**  
— Abu Mohammad

Sociologist Sabri Rubeihat believes that the legacy of bedouin traditions continues with most tribesmen who settle in homes.

"We still retain some elements of Bedouin life in our subconscious," he says.

"On the occasion of death or marriage you see a tent erected in the back yard of a grand villa to receive guests," he reminds.

Bedouins, once a majority, have become a minority among Jordanians as most have melted into society through rapid urbanisation and education. However, tribes and their traditions remain deeply entrenched in Jordanian society.

Abu Mohammad and his wife relocate during the winter to Zarqa and the drier eastern desert terrain for the sake of his livestock and leave their 12-year-old daughter Iman to look after their children in

their house in Wadi Abdoun.

Four of his children still go to school, but one of his sons, Abdullah, wants to follow the footsteps of his father.

"I want to be just like my father and work with him when I finish school," he says.

His eldest brother is a soldier while the second eldest has dropped out of school.

Rubeihat feels such groups of tent dwellers still provide an invaluable service to urban society by providing fresh vegetables, eggs, cheese and meat.

Most seasonal tent residents say inhabitants of nearby villas are not always kind to them.

"They are bothered when we set up camp near their villas so they telephone the authorities who come and order me to move on," says Abu Abed, another farmer.

"Sometimes I listen and sometimes I don't."

The small yet robust Um Gublan says she has no problems with her neighbours and in fact has found camaraderie in trade and in passing on traditions.

"I visit them and teach them how to make jameed (dried yoghurt used particularly in mansaf) and they buy my vegetables and home-made bread," she proudly says.

One of her neighbours, who owns a two-storey building in Deir Ghbar says she does not mind having bedouins as neighbours "as long as they stop their goats from eating my trees and shrubs."

Others say these remaining tent dwellers will eventually fizzle out as more streets are opened and new houses spring up.

"I am seeing fewer and fewer tents in the wadis compared to only a few years back," said another resident. "Soon, their days will be finished."



## UNESCO sponsoring conference on Internet paedophilia

PARIS (AP) — With child pornography increasingly accessible on the Internet, experts gathered at UNESCO for the first major international conference on the issue.

Some 250 participants from 40 countries as well as representatives of 75 non-governmental organisations began meeting Monday to discuss ways to improve training for police officers, judges and doctors handling cases of child sex abuse.

They will call for the creation of international hot lines and an aggressive campaign to educate children and their parents about the dangers of paedophilia on the Internet.

Experts will examine the socio-economic conditions that allow paedophilia and child prostitution to thrive worldwide, especially in developing nations, as well as the international legal framework necessary to combat it.

The online revolution has

made it easier for paedophiles to access illicit materials, but it also has made it easier for police to track them down, experts say.

All Internet users leave a record of their visit on the host site and on their own computer. Experts say Internet Access Providers must be pressured to better screen sites to which they provide access.

Interpol's Agnes Fournier-Saint Maur, who heads the international police organisation's special commission on crimes against minors, said it was virtually impossible to determine the number of Web sites providing materials for adults who prey on children or to know how many paedophiles access the Internet.

Fournier-Saint Maur said Interpol's figures are based on the material seized, which in the United States alone, included 500,000 online photos showing sexual acts involving minors.

The Internet facilitates the duplication and recycling

of old materials, and once a child's photo appears online, it is extremely difficult to remove it. Fournier-Saint Maur said at a news conference last week.

Daniel Kahn, a French lawyer and expert on Internet law, said many Web sites provide materials that are legal in the countries where they are created — places that also often lack laws protecting children against kidnapping for sexual exploitation.

India, Nepal and many developing nations, including sub-Saharan African countries, were cited as places where children increasingly are being exploited on screen. However, better cooperation has been noted between Western European nations and those such as Thailand and the Philippines which have been notorious for lax policies.

Under French law, both the provider of paedophilia materials and the user can be prosecuted and punished.



Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon arrives at the House of Lords' hearing regarding Pinochet's extradition. Balthasar will listen as seven of Britain's most senior judges decide on the validity of Pinochet's claim to immunity from prosecution on charges of murder, torture and kidnap outside his native Chile (Reuters photo)

## Britain's House of Lords reopens Pinochet case

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's highest court Monday was beginning a fresh hearing to decide whether former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet should be extradited to Spain to face prosecution for crimes against humanity.

Seven judges from the House of Lords were to open proceedings at 11.00 a.m. local time (1100 GMT).

They will spend several days examining the case, listening to both his supporters and detractors, each side determined not to lose out in this historic process.

Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon, whose arrest warrant against the 83-year-old general for terrorism, torture and genocide sparked off what became a major legal and political wrangle, was to attend the hearings.

The Chilean government, which claims to be the only power with the right to try Pinochet and which has lobbied for his release, will also be represented for the first time.

The seven Law Lords will have to make a majority decision on whether the retired junta chief enjoys immunity from prosecution as a former head of state or whether extradition proceedings to Spain can go ahead.

A Lords ruling in November — which involved only five Lords — that Pinochet could face prosecution was overturned by the house after it was revealed that one of the judges was a patron of Amnesty International, the human rights group lobbying for the general's trial.

None of the seven Lords taking part in this week's hearing, presided over by Lord Browne-Wilkinson, 68, participated in the earlier ruling.

While four of them are seen as "moderates," nobody can predict which way the judgement will fall.

Amnesty International also has been given a chance to plead before the panel.

The group has continually

argued that perpetrators of crimes against humanity should be tried not just for the sake of their victims but for the good of the international community as a whole.

Amnesty International's lawyer Geoffrey Bindman said Monday that Pinochet must be made to face the consequences of his actions.

"There should be no hiding place and no escape for anybody who has been responsible for torture, kidnapping and murder on the scale which is alleged against General Pinochet," he told BBC radio.

Pinochet himself, under whose 1973-1990 rule 3,000 people disappeared or were murdered, told his family and close friends that he was resigned to dying in Britain if he loses his bid to return home, the press here said.

"I am resigned to my fate. Even if that means dying here. This is part of my sacrifice to the Fatherland," the Sunday Telegraph quoted him as saying.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### France honours Thai World War I hero and centenarian

BANGKOK (AFP) — A World War I hero who is the last surviving member of a Siamese force sent to France to fight with the Allies was Monday presented with France's highest award, the Legion d'Honneur. Centenarian Yod Sangrungruang was presented with the award by French ambassador to Thailand Gerard Coste at his home town of Phitsanulok, close to Bangkok. Yod Sangrungruang was part of the Royal Siamese Expeditionary Force of 1,284 men sent by the then kingdom of Siam, as Thailand was known, to fight with the Allies in France in June 1918, a few months before the end of World War I. He had joined the artillery in 1916, and after volunteering for the expeditionary corps he served in the French army as an air mechanic, based near the southern port of Marseilles. After demobilisation, he returned to Thailand where he married and had nine children. He served as a village headman for nearly 50 years. He was awarded the honour in November as part of celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War I. France has decided to award the chevalier grade of the Legion of Honour to all surviving World War I veterans. The Legion d'Honneur was created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte to reward soldiers and civilians.

### ASEAN urged to field observers to Indonesian elections

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippines has proposed to Singapore that both countries send observers to the general elections in Indonesia in June, Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said Monday. "I told Mr. Jayakumar that we could encourage ASEAN members to participate as foreign observers in Indonesia under the UNDP," said Siazon of his Singapore counterpart Syannugam Jayakumar. The three countries along with Brunei, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Jayakumar is this year's chairman of the revolving ASEAN standing committee. Separately, Jayakumar was told that the Philippines will send 200 election observers to Indonesia from the non-government group National Citizens Movement for Free Elections, also known as Namfrel. Siazon said. Namfrel last week completed the training of 13 Indonesian monitors in preparation for the June 7 elections under an arrangement with the U.N. Development Programme, the foreign department said. Indonesia, the largest nation in Southeast Asia, will have its "first real elections" and it would be a gargantuan task involving 120 million voters, Siazon said Monday.

### Provincial government in India's northeast loses trust vote

NEW DELHI (AP) — The government of a province tucked away in India's remote northeast quit after it lost a confidence vote Monday, domestic news agencies reported. Gegong Apang, chief minister of the hilly Arunachal Pradesh state bordering China, resigned after his confidence motion failed to win a single vote with 36 against, Press Trust of India reported. After making a three-hour speech, Apang, head of a regional party, walked out of the house with his 22 supporters before the vote was taken. Arunachal Pradesh is among the smallest of India's 26 states, bounded on the north by China, east by Burma and west by the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. Political leaders in Arunachal Pradesh and other small northeastern states often complain they have no say in the country's affairs. An estimated 106 tribes live in Arunachal Pradesh, speaking about 50 different tribal dialects. Another party could now be given a chance to form a government, or elections could be called in the state.

### Crime up 4.6% in Paris in 1998

PARIS (AP) — Crime jumped 4.6 per cent in Paris in 1998, with a huge rise in thefts by pickpockets, especially during the World Cup, the city police department announced Monday. The number of violent crimes fell significantly, with a drop of 18 per cent in the number of armed robberies. The number of homicides was the second lowest in 25 years, with 112 people killed in 1998 compared to 99 the year before.

### Chinese mine explosion kills one, 10 missing

BEIJING (AFP) — A coal mine explosion in northeastern China has left one dead and six injured, with 10 miners missing, official media reported Monday. The Xinhua news agency said the blast occurred Monday at 12:45 a.m. (1700 GMT Sunday) at the Magu mine outside of Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning province. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident, it said. Safety precautions are notoriously poor in China's mining industry, which sees an average of 10,000 workers die each year.

### China crackdown on smuggling yields military weapon haul

BEIJING (AFP) — A crackdown by Chinese customs in troubled Xinjiang province has yielded an attempt to smuggle military weapons and ammunition from Kazakhstan. Xinhua reported Monday. The official news agency said customs officers in Xinjiang handled more than 700 smuggling cases and confiscated goods worth 30 million yuan (\$3.6 million) in 1998. Among the cases was the largest involving the discovery of military weapons being smuggled into China, Xinhua said. The six pistols, a submachine gun and 2,000 rounds of ammunition were hidden in a truck and driven from Kazakhstan through the Korgas crossing into northwestern China last April. Korgas is close to the town of Gulja (Yining in Chinese) where riots broke out in February 1997 over the creation of an independent Islamic state in Xinjiang. Official accounts said 10 people were killed and another 132 injured when the protest against rule by Beijing descended into a riot, but a foreign-based Uighur group put the number of dead at more than 100. In November, officials in the town said terrorists were still armed from abroad and posters called on separatists to hand over their arms. Xinjiang remains under tight control and news from the remote region is notoriously slow in reaching Beijing.

## Court ruling awaited on arrest of Zimbabwean defence minister

HARARE (AFP) — An editor spent his seventh day in military detention Monday as Zimbabwe anxiously awaited a court ruling on an application to have the defence minister arrested for defying a court order last week to free the journalist.

The defence ministry last Thursday ignored a high court order for the release of Standard editor Mark Chavunduka, who was detained last Tuesday after running a story about an alleged military coup plot and the arrest of 23 army officers.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the paper Friday made an urgent application to the high court to jail

Defence Minister Moven Mahachi. Defence Secretary Job Whabira and a military police major involved in the arrest of Chavunduka was not released.

A judge then set the hearing for Monday at 4:00 p.m. (1600 GMT), "in effect sentencing Mark to another three days in detention," according to Clive Wilson, the paper's managing director.

Chavunduka, who is being held at a military barracks in Harare, has been denied access to his lawyers and family.

Defence Secretary Whabira refused to carry out the High Court order Thursday, saying: "The

judge cannot direct us. We will move at our own pace. Any civilian who meddles in military matters is subject to military law."

On Jan. 10 the Standard reported that 23 Zimbabwean military officers had been arrested for inciting colleagues in the army to topple President Robert Mugabe.

The paper cited the harsh economic conditions in the country and Zimbabwe's intervention in the DRC's civil war in support of President Laurent Kabila as the sources of discontent that led to the alleged plot.

Mahachi dismissed the story as a complete fabrication.

## Japan and France share concern over N. Korea

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan and France voiced concern over North Korea's military intentions in a ministerial meeting Monday, officials said, and agreed to pursue Asia-Europe defence talks.

Japanese defence agency director-general Hoseni Norota and visiting French Defence Minister Alain Richard agreed to

"exchange views on defence in Asia and Europe," a defence agency spokesman said.

"As of now, we haven't worked out concrete cooperation measures between the two nations," he added.

Norota reportedly told the French defence chief that despite a severe food shortage, "North Korea is seeking to modernise its

military and is suspected of manufacturing nuclear weapons."

Richard, the first French defence minister to visit here in seven years, was quoted as saying: "We share concern over the North Korean issue. We would like to continue exchanging views in the future."

The French minister later

told reporters he had noted a "substantial change in the climate" since North Korea launched a rocket that overflew Japanese territory on Aug. 31 last year.

Richard, who also met with Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura, said he agreed with his hosts that uncertainty over Pyongyang's intentions was "an important destabilising factor" in the region.

The United States had been Japan's defence partner since World War II but Japan was "widening its horizons," he said, as witnessed by its decision to launch reconnaissance satellites following North Korea's rocket launch.

Japan gave the final go-ahead in December last year for the launch of its

first intelligence satellites in 2002, setting aside \$97 million for development in the year to March 2000.

Pyongyang's rocket launch, first believed to be a ballistic missile test, deeply embarrassed Japan because its military failed to spot the rocket and then had to rely on U.S. and South Korean intelligence.

## Yeltsin treatment to be based on medication, not surgery

MOSCOW (AFP) — Kremlin doctors advised Monday that President Boris Yeltsin should undergo a course of drugs to counteract an acute stomach ulcer, Interfax reported.

Yeltsin's persistent health woes have raised increasing questions over his fitness to govern. The Russian leader has yet to put in a day's work at the Kremlin this year and was absent for long periods last year with bronchitis, nervous exhaustion and pneumonia.

But Yeltsin has ruled out formally ceding his presidential powers to the prime minister, who would assume Russia's leadership should Yeltsin become incapacitated.

Following initial medical examinations Sunday evening, doctors said that the ulcer could be treated in two or three weeks without surgery, Interfax reported.

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## Japan's opposition leader wins party poll, vows tough fight ahead

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese opposition leader Naoto Kan overcame a sex scandal to easily retain his post in a Democratic Party poll Monday and vowed a tough fight with the government.

Dogged by tabloid stories, which he denies, of an extramarital affair with a woman 20 years his junior, Kan took 180 of the valid votes against 51 for his only rival, 40-year-old Shigefumi Matsuzawa, party officials said.

Two votes were invalid in the election, held by regional representatives and parliamentary members of the largest opposition force, the Democratic Party.

In a show of party unity after the election, 52-year-old Kan and Matsuzawa shook hands and raised them in a joint salute.

Kan said his party would consider a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's administration after annual company results were announced around May or June.

It would then "become clear

whether the Obuchi administration will be able to keep the promise of positive growth," he told a news conference. Obuchi has promised 0.5 per cent economic growth in the year from April.

Kan, whose victory came on the eve of the opening of parliament, has also demanded the dissolution of the lower house for snap elections before its four-year term ends in October 2000.

He vowed to provide strong opposition to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its new coalition partner, the Liberal Party. "We must stand against the coalition in cooperation with other opposition parties," he said.

Asked about Kan's re-election, Obuchi told reporters he wanted to "work together for the sake of the country although we are on the ruling and opposition sides."

John Neuffer, research fellow at the Mitsui Marine Research Institute, said Kan had been expected to win despite the sex scandal.

"Even though Kan is getting heat up over the womanising charges and is widely disliked by his rank and file, the Democrats know he's still the best thing they have going for them — he continues to rank as the most popular politician in Japan," Neuffer added.

"There is no one in the party who can come close to replacing him for the time being."

The prime minister meanwhile met senior members of the LDP, Liberal Party leader Ichiro Ozawa and key ministers of the ruling two-party coalition at an inaugural monthly liaison meeting.

Obuchi reshuffled his cabinet last Thursday after forging the coalition pact and brought in the Liberal Party's ex-secretary general, Takeshi Noda, as home affairs minister.

"The government will make utmost efforts under close cooperation," the premier said after the meeting, according to officials.

Ozawa later said: "I am going to make desperate efforts to support this administration."

A poll showed support for Obuchi's cabinet rose to the highest level since he came to power half a year ago.

The approval rate for Obuchi's cabinet rose to 26 per cent in January from 25 per cent in December. Jiji Press news agency said in the nationwide poll conducted Jan. 9-12 in the run-up to the formation of the coalition.

The LDP-Liberal Party coalition holds a majority with a combined 303 seats in the 500-seat lower house but it falls short in the upper chamber with only 116 of the 252 seats.

The coalition must now battle to pass crucial legislation during the next parliamentary session, including a record-spending budget to boost the economy and laws to strengthen the defence relationship with the United States.

Kan later vowed in a television interview to oppose the budget, but the threat has little weight since the upper house, which the opposition parties control, cannot stop budget legislation.





Serb policemen move into position in Racak village, south of Stimlje, about 26 km south of the regional capital Pristina. Serbian police resumed their attack against ethnic Albanian guerrillas around the village where the bodies of 45 ethnic Albanians were found and who the villagers say were massacred by Serb police (Reuters photo)

## OSCE calls emergency meeting on Kosovo

VIENNA (AFP) — The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) called an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the crisis in Kosovo after the massacre of 45 Kosovo Albanians.

The OSCE's 54-member Permanent Council, due to meet at 11:00 a.m. (10:00 GMT), was expected to pass a "harsh" resolution condemning the killings, spokeswoman Melissa Fleming told AFP.

urgently Sunday and denounced the massacre but did not decide to intervene militarily.

A diplomatic source who asked not to be named added that discussions on the wording of the resolution to be adopted Monday were "still under negotiation," but said Russia was trying to have it toned down.

Fleming said only: "I expect it will be quite harsh."

A press conference was to be held after the Permanent Council meeting at the former imperial palace in Vienna, the Hofburg.

An OSCE source said the OSCE's executive body was unlikely to consider the withdrawal of the KVM immediately, although it was in contact with NATO officials over the threat of NATO action against Yugoslavia.

"The only thing that would make us evacuate would be if NATO were to start bombing," said the source.

The diplomat said such a move could be considered "if something really horrible happened to a KVM member."

The OSCE was charged, under a deal struck last October by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, with deploying a 2,000-strong KVM in the troubled province to monitor compliance with U.N. resolutions.

The Racak massacre came almost at the same time as two members of the KVM were injured by sniper fire in the troubled province — the first such incident for the OSCE mission since it began deploying before Christmas.

Investigations into the mass killing at Racak are continuing.

In a telephone conversation with Yugoslav Foreign

Minister Zivadin Jovanovic,

the OSCE's current Norwegian chairman Knut Vollebæk called for the ICTY to be allowed to investigate the Racak massacre.

Louise Arbou, chief prosecutor of the Hague war crimes tribunal, was heading Monday for Kosovo to try to probe the massacre, which was allegedly carried out by Serbian security forces.

Up to now, no ICTY investigator has been allowed into Kosovo, where Serbian police and troops are accused of resorting to atrocities in their drive to crush separatist insurgents of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

In an interview Monday with the French daily Liberation, Arbou urged the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to facilitate access to Kosovo for ICTY officials.

United States by President

Lee, which they saw as implying recognition of his status. China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province.

Wang visits Taipei. SEF vice chairman Shi Hwei-Yow Saturday said Wang had set no terms last year for his planned Taiwan visit and he could not understand why Beijing came up with such demands now.

Shi criticised what he called "bluffing" tactics which he said China employed before negotiations. Taiwan wants to keep any talks general.

SEF and ARATS are quasi-official bodies authorised to handle exchanges in the lack of official contacts. The two bodies held an historic dialogue in Singapore in 1993.

But China put a second Koo-Wang meeting on hold and suspended other high-level contacts in mid-1995 in protest at a trip to the

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## Serb police resume attacks on village, NATO sends commanders to warn Belgrade

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Heavy fighting was reported Monday in a tense Kosovo village where Serb police battled ethnic Albanian guerrillas even as two top NATO generals headed to Belgrade to demand that President Slobodan Milosevic respect a cease-fire.

Serb and ethnic Albanian sources in Kosovo reported the combat in the village of Racak, where bodies of 45 ethnic Albanians were found over the weekend, bringing Serbia's province one step closer to an all-out war and prompting international outrage.

The fighting subsided by midday, local residents said, but the area remained tense.

NATO met Sunday to demand that Serb-led government forces stop their onslaught against the Kosovo ethnic Albanian rebels and that Yugoslavia allow the U.N. war crimes tribunal to investigate the killings in Racak.

Gen. Wesley Clark, the alliance's commander for Europe, and Gen. Klaus Naumann were due Monday afternoon in Belgrade to warn Milosevic to honour the cease-fire, agreed to in October under threats of

NATO airstrikes.

The chief prosecutor of the U.N. war crimes tribunal, Louise Arbou, planned to leave Monday for Kosovo to investigate the massacre, regardless of whether Yugoslav authorities granted permission.

Elsewhere, the U.N. Security Council and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe were planning meetings on Kosovo.

Col. Mike Phillips, an assistant to the American chief of international monitors in Kosovo, said Serb police announced early Monday they would move into the Racak area to conduct a "search" for Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas, which typically means a crackdown is underway.

Phillips said small arms fire could be heard in the area Monday morning. Serb and ethnic Albanian sources said heavy fighting had resumed.

Fighting in Racak also flared Sunday when Serb forensic experts tried to enter the village with police escort, despite international monitors warning it would provoke clashes.

The 45 bodies of ethnic Albanians, many of them

mutilated, were found Saturday in a gully outside the village, 25 kilometres south of the provincial capital, Pristina.

Serb officials said the victims were KLA guerrillas killed in combat, although the victims included three women and a 12-year-old boy. Serbs accused the KLA of mutilating the bodies to make it look as if a massacre had occurred.

During the emergency meeting Sunday at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, ambassadors of the 16-member alliance condemned the atrocities.

"Milosevic must comply with all his commitments to NATO," said Secretary-General Javier Solana. The secretary-general said the order that gives NATO's military arm authority to conduct airstrikes remains in effect. But his statement made no specific threat.

NATO threatened airstrikes last year if Milosevic refused to call off his offensive against ethnic Albanian rebels fighting for independence for Kosovo, a province of Serbia, Yugoslavia's main republic.

Following intense negotiations with U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke,

Milosevic agreed Oct. 12 to halt the seven-month offensive and begin talks with ethnic Albanians on Kosovo's future.

Both sides, however, have rejected U.S. proposals for expanded self-rule for Kosovo. With diplomacy at a stalemate, prospects for a full-scale resumption of fighting have increased.

But Yugoslav officials showed no sign of backing down in the face of what they consider an ethnic Albanian threat to Serb control of the province. Ethnic Albanians form about 90 per cent of Kosovo's 2 million people, and many want independence.

State-run media loyal to Milosevic was highly critical of William Walker, U.S. head of OSCE observers, who was the first to condemn the massacre and blame the security forces. Several columnists in Monday's newspapers accused Walker of siding with ethnic Albanians.

The ethnic Albanian daily Koha Ditore reported Monday it had received a call from an alleged member of a secret Serb organisation who threatened Walker unless he apologised to the Serbs within 24 hours.

## 'Taiwan to build submarines with U.S. assistance'

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan will purchase and outfit six to 10 submarines based on German and American technology, significantly upgrading its sea defences against rival China, a newspaper reported Monday.

The first of the submarines is expected to be launched in 2005, marking a major success for Taiwan's lobbying efforts in the United States and reflecting Washington's concerns over China's growing naval power, the United Daily News said.

The subs will be based on Germany's advanced diesel-powered U-209 model, with the hull constructed by Electric Boat, General Dynamics Corp.'s submarine division, in the U.S., the United Daily News reported.

Electric Boat operates a shipyard in Groton, Connecticut,

although the newspaper report did not specify that is where the hulls would be built.

The craft will then be outfitted with sonar, weaponry and other on-board systems from the U.S. and Europe, by the Taiwanese Defence Ministry's Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology and the state-owned China Shipbuilding Corp., the paper said.

Taiwan also used foreign components in the 1980s to develop the Indigenous Defence Fighter jet. The fighters filled a major gap in Taiwan's air defences at a time when the U.S. and other countries were refusing to sell new planes to Taiwan.

No price tag was given for the subs, but Taiwan in 1991 attempted to buy a dozen U-209s from Germany for U.S. \$12 billion. That deal was

rejected by Germany's Federal Security Council, which did not want to anger China.

China claims Taiwan as a renegade province and pressures foreign governments not to sell any modern military hardware, especially submarines, to the island.

Beijing downgraded diplomatic relations with the Netherlands for three years after the Dutch sold Taiwan two Zwaardvis conventional submarines in 1981. Taiwan also operates a pair of ageing former U.S. Guppy II-class submarines.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry did not comment on the report, in keeping with its policy on not discussing weapons purchases.

China Shipbuilding Corp. Vice President Kuo Chung-Hsing said his company had not received any information about

participating in a project to produce submarines. But he said the company has the necessary expertise if it is asked to join in.

Obtaining a submarine fleet has long been a top priority for Taiwan's military, and President Lee Teng-Hui has made numerous personal appeals to Germany and the U.S. for assistance in buying or assembling subs.

Some defence experts estimate Taiwan needs at least 10 submarines to guard its waters. Though most of China's large submarine fleet is obsolete, it has increased the threat to Taiwan with the addition of modern nuclear-powered Kilo-class subs from Russia.

Though it has diplomatic relations with Beijing instead of Taipei, the U.S. is committed by law to ensuring Taiwan has a credible defence.

## 'Top Chinese envoy welcome to visit Taipei'

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui said Monday that China's top envoy Wang Daohan was welcome to visit the island despite controversy over the terms of his proposed trip.

"We welcome his visit," Lee said during a meeting with Doug Bereuter, who heads the Asia-Pacific group of the U.S. House of Representatives' international relations committee.

"I have been earnestly looking forward to Taiwan visits by mainland leaders," Lee said, adding that hopefully they would come to learn about democratisation and help improve ties.

At a press conference after a private meeting with officials of the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, Koo Chen-fu,

chairman of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), hinted that the government might make a reciprocal gesture when Wang arrives.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin met Koo in Beijing in October during a ground-breaking trip.

However Taipei and Beijing are in dispute over preconditions for Wang's visit.

Last Friday the SEF's Chinese counterpart the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) said Wang would travel to the island "at the proper time."

It asked the SEF to send a deputy secretary general to the mainland to work out details of the trip and demanded political and economic dialogue when

Wang visits Taipei. SEF vice chairman Shi Hwei-Yow Saturday said Wang had set no terms last year for his planned Taiwan visit and he could not understand why Beijing came up with such demands now.

Shi criticised what he called "bluffing" tactics which he said China employed before negotiations. Taiwan wants to keep any talks general.

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## Ex-state prosecutor convicted of murder

WILMINGTON, Delaware (AP) — Thomas Capano's descent from Delaware's highest political and legal circles ended when a jury pronounced him guilty of murdering his mistress, the governor's scheduling secretary.

Now the only question is whether the conviction will cost the 49-year-old former state prosecutor his life.

The six-man, six-woman jury that found Capano guilty Saturday of murdering Anne Marie Fahey will begin a new hearing Wednesday — this time to determine whether or not it will recommend the death penalty.

Following the announcement of the verdict Sunday, lead defence lawyer Joseph Oteri said that before exploring an appeal he first needs to protect Capano from execution.

"We hoped we had convinced the jury there was reasonable doubt," Oteri said. "We will go on to the penalty phase and save Tom's life."

The guilty verdict against Capano came after three days of jury deliberation that capped a 12-week, high-profile trial.

Without a body, a weapon or any concrete evidence to prove how Ms. Fahey died, prosecutors used circumstantial evidence to show Capano had planned her death. Jurors had to believe the crime was premeditated to convict on the sole charge of first-degree murder.

Capano — a member of one of Wilmington's most powerful families and a former aide to both former Gov. Michael Castle and former Wilmington Mayor Daniel

Frawley — admitted dumping Ms. Fahey's body at sea, but said another mistress had killed her by accident.

The trial had Delawareans transfixed, exposing sensational details about some of the most influential people in this usually staid financial centre, with its tightly interlocking circles of law, politics and business.

Capano, who Oteri said "fully believed he was going to be acquitted," stared stone-faced as the verdict was read to Superior Court Judge William Swain Lee's silent courtroom.

Capano's mother, Marguerite, burst into tears and his daughters held each other. On the other side of the room, Ms. Fahey's sister, Kathleen Fahey-Hosie, cried tears of relief.

"Tom Capano put a lot of people through a lot of distress, suffering and pain," prosecutor Colm Connolly said after the verdict. "Our hearts go out to the Fahey family." When asked what punishment the Fahey family wished for Capano, her brother Robert Fahey said the family will remain silent.

"It's really up to the judge and jury to decide. We will be very comfortable with any decision they make," he said. "In some ways, life in prison could be a crueler punishment than death." For 2 1/2 years, Capano had maintained he didn't know what had happened to Ms. Fahey, 30, after they dined at a posh Philadelphia restaurant on June 27, 1996. She was never seen again.

Bloodstains were found in Capano's house and investi-

gators learned that Capano had replaced a rug and dumped a bloodstained sofa at a family construction site not long after Ms. Fahey vanished.

In a stunning turnaround, Capano admitted on the stand that Ms. Fahey was killed at his house and he disposed of her body with his brother's help.

He said another mistress, Deborah MacIntyre, had found him and Ms. Fahey together and threatened suicide. When she produced a gun, Capano said, he lunged for it and it went off, killing Ms. Fahey.

Capano said he lied to protect Ms. MacIntyre, a former administrator at a prestigious private school who had been his lover for 18 years.

The jury didn't believe it. Ms. MacIntyre denied being at Capano's house the night Ms. Fahey died and told investigators Capano asked her to buy him a gun in May 1996, then asked her to lie

about it. Prosecutors said Capano began planning the murder in early 1996, as Ms. Fahey's relationship with another

man deepened and she tried to emigrate herself from her three-year affair with Capano, a married man with four teenage daughters.



Convicted murderer Thomas Capano (left) walks from the courtroom with a corrections officer, after being convicted of first degree murder in Wilmington, Delaware (Reuters photo)

## Philippines death row convicts could swell to 50,000 in five years

MANILA (AFP) — The number of death row inmates in the Philippines could swell to more than 50,000 within five years at the rate they are being sentenced, lawyers opposed to capital punishment said Monday.

The volunteer Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) urged Congress to review the death penalty law, saying it was too easy for innocent people to be convicted given "the imperfections, weaknesses and problems of the Philippine justice system."

FLAG provides legal assistance to 38 year-old decorator Leo Echegaray, a convicted child rapist who won a last-minute stay of execution from the Supreme Court last Jan. 4.

The group released a study last year before Congress was set to vote on four resolutions that would uphold the 1994 law and save the way for the first judicial execution in the Philippines in 23 years.

Sponsors of the resolutions had hoped their approval would put pressure on the Supreme Court, whose 15 justices meet Tuesday to discuss whether to lift a temporary restraining order that deferred Echegaray's execution.

But legislators opposed to the death penalty stalled the debates until late Monday.

The House committee on rules agreed to have all four resolutions consolidated into a single document. A vote was expected late Monday depending on the presence of a quorum as many of the 139 congressmen were already seen leaving.

House speaker Manuel Villar however told reporters "we are not governed by any deadline. We are passing the resolution to express the sentiment of the house for whatever purpose that it may serve."

A five-year review by FLAG in the found a 65-fold increase in the number of condemned prisoners to 819 as of end-1998. The list has since swelled to 865.

"If this pattern is sustained, one can expect that by the year 2003, there will be 50,765 persons confined at the country's death row," the group said.

National surveys point to huge support for the death penalty, with the Roman Catholic church presenting the only other organised resistance.

President Joseph Estrada has vowed to veto legislation that would seek to abolish or amend the statute, which he said was a crime deterrent.

Lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno told a news conference the supreme court had approved the execution of 14 convicts this year, which would be the largest single year of executions in the country.

The group said 100 people were executed between 1924 and 1976, including 17 Japanese war criminals who were hanged sometime before April 1950.

Eighty-two convicts were executed by electric chair and one by firing squad.

Smuggling upon haul

Smuggling upon haul

Smuggling upon haul







# Change of heart signals new direction for World Bank

In a new report, the World Bank has sketched the outlook for developing countries and the global economy, and within the doom-laden figures lies a significant shift in the bank's attitude towards managing the world's finances.

By Jeremy Scott-Joynt

A YEAR AND a half after the Asian currency meltdown heralded the current crisis in the global financial management, the World Bank says it is learning the lessons.

For the countries which bore the brunt, they are hard indeed.

In 1997, 7 per cent of the world's population lived in countries with shrinking per capita GDP. In 1998, the figure will be more than a quarter. Over a billion people, living in 36 countries including Brazil, Indonesia and Russia.

Global output growth last year will halve from the 1997 figure of 3.2 per cent, to just 1.8 per cent.

In Indonesia, one of the countries worst hit, real wages fell by more than half, as the number of people classed as living in poverty climbed by nearly 20 per cent.

Few disagree that the massive capi-

tal inflows in the years leading up to the crisis, and the subsequent rush for the financial exits, were among the major causes of the plummeting Hong Kong dollar, Korean won, Indonesian rupiah and Thai baht, among others.

Till now, though, anything approaching real, practical criticism of the way the pieces of equity and capital markets fit together has been firmly off the agenda of the world financial system's barons.

No longer. According to the bank's annual "Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries" (GEP) report, it's always too much of a risk to rely on short-term money in the manner of the Southeast Asian and Latin American countries caught in the currency crisis.

Systemic crises, the report explains, have become both more common, and much more serious, in the last 10 to 15 years — which, although the bank makes no explicit connection, is roughly the period during which the "Washington Consensus" of open markets and minimal regulation as the cure for all ills has held sway.

The central conclusion (of the Report) is that it's difficult to deal

with these crises when they erupt," said Uri Dadush, the director of the Bank's development prospects group.

And, he went on, that means trying to fix the problems in retrospect is no substitute for admitting the design flaws that helped bring them about, and redesigning the systems accordingly.

In a significant change of mood from two decades of pure laissez-faire nostrums, the report urges caution in liberalising a country's capital and financial accounts. If you jump feet first into the global economy, it says, you are highly unlikely to float.

And it doesn't matter what preparations you make. "With large inflows, you are going to have a terrible time whatever system you have," said Dadush.

In other words, the tribulations that both East Asia — and now the world — are facing cannot simply be pinned on "crony capitalism," the favoured whipping-boy of recent analyses of the crisis, or inadequate domestic systems of regulation and transparency.

Instead, the blame has to land at the door of "the interplay of weak domestic systems with imperfect international financial markets."

Which means that the much-derided "herd mentality" of players in the global finance arena — the tendency to follow the pack, so when one institution flees the rest follow — and the abysmal record on accurate risk assessment are just as much at fault as anything a single country has done.

This has led the bank to rethink its policies on two main fronts.

On one hand, the bank's "caution" about financial liberalisation — not trade liberalisation, which is still seen widely as an unalloyed good — now means that it supports the concept of control on short-term capital.

"We need better mechanisms to dampen volatility," said Masoud Ahmad, the Bank's vice president for economic policy. That means taxes and capital controls. "They may have costs," he continued, "but they are outweighed by the benefits."

Time is up, in the Bank's view, for the excuse that liberalisation and the natural workings of the global economy are natural forces before which we must all bow down.

"People are going beyond accepting things as a fact of life, and actually doing something about them," said Ahmad of international market

"imperfections."

More than that, though, the bank has now fully accepted that social welfare is not something that can be left out of the equation when drawing up plans for the developing countries.

"Given that you can't avoid crises, you need better social protection mechanisms," Ahmad said. And even though the report speaks of social protection "during crises" for "the poor and other vulnerable groups," Ahmad went on to confirm that such measures could not be retrofitted.

"Social safety nets have to be in place beforehand," he said. "In Indonesia [last] year, the money was there. The mechanisms were the problem."

Along with market reforms and domestic regulation, these are the yardsticks by which the bank will judge itself in future. "We have more to do than we have been doing in the past," Ahmad said.

The bank's change of heart — signalled in recent speeches by its president, James Wolfensohn, in which he stressed that the human cost of economic development could not be simply written off as "part of the cure" — is a welcome one.

But the Bank is only part of the story. It works in concert with the other international financial institutions (IFIs), particularly the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

And the GEP was released in a week when it became clear that the IMF's prescription for Brazil's bailout package — \$41.5 billion in new loans — involved swinging cuts in social programmes and in sustainable development projects within the Amazonian rainforest which, ironically, are backed by World Bank money.

Clearly, any shift within the IFIs towards a more realistic, and less quasi-religious, view of global markets is a welcome change from the norm.

But the bank should add a fourth priority to the three listed above: Convinced its colleagues that they, too, need to learn the tough lessons of the present crisis. Otherwise the increasing propensity of the world economy regularly to fall apart at the seams will continue to be seen as a fact of life, a law of nature — not an artefact of human frailty and human folly.

— Gemini News

## Greenpeace warns of Russia plan to import N-waste

By Adam Tanner  
Reuters

THE ENVIRONMENTAL group Greenpeace said on Tuesday Russia was considering importing nuclear waste from Switzerland for long-term storage in a move it called illegal and environmentally risky.

A Russian Atomic Energy Ministry official who took part in September talks in Zurich confirmed to Reuters Moscow was exploring reprocessing and storing spent fuel from Switzerland and other Western nations but had struck no deals yet.

"There were such talks, but that does not mean that Russia or Russian representatives have agreed to import or export anything," said Boris Nikipelov, a ministry marketing expert.

"The question is being studied in Switzerland and France and Germany and in the East." In Zurich, Swiss utilities acknowledged having held talks on storing nuclear waste in Russia, but they did not

inform Swiss authorities since no contractual agreements had been made.

"A memorandum of understanding is not a contract and therefore not presented to authorities," the Swiss utility Nordostschweizerische Kraftwerke (NOK) said in a statement which it released on behalf of itself and other nuclear utilities.

Greenpeace released a September 17 document signed by Russia and a Swiss utility official from Elektrizitaets-Gesellschaft Laufenburg AG expressing Swiss interest in sending spent fuel to Russia for permanent storage.

"Such a shipment is completely illegal under Russian environmental law," Greenpeace anti-nuclear campaigner Igor Forostontov said. "Society knows nothing of these activities." NOK said the fact that Swiss utilities have made various international contacts to talk about permanent international storage sites has been publicly known for years.

The memorandum did nothing more than confirm talks would also be held with Russia about the possibility of international long-term storage of radioactive nuclear waste, it added.

A spokeswoman for Switzerland's Environment, Energy and Transport Ministry said they learned of the memorandum from the Greenpeace statement.

Nikipelov, one of two ministry officials present at the talks, said nuclear officials were trying to change a 1991 law that allows reprocessing but not storage of foreign waste.

"Before reprocessing you need to have storage," he said.

Many countries import or export nuclear power plant waste, but the issue alarms some Russian experts who say the country is already unable to handle its own waste left from the Soviet era.

Before the 1991 law was adopted, Russia imported waste from countries using Soviet-designed nuclear power plants including Ukraine,

Lithuania and Finland, officials said.

"All necessary safety measures are taken: a special train, reinforced security," said Yuri Bepalko, a spokesman for Russia's Atomic Energy Ministry. "So far there is no basis to sound an alarm. This alarm by Greenpeace is a false alarm." If the nuclear waste imports from Switzerland take place from 2000 to 2030 as outlined in the preliminary protocol, it would be the first time Russia had accepted nuclear waste from Western-designed reactors, officials said.

Environmental officials estimated Russia stood to earn between \$270 and \$1,000 a kilogramme by taking nuclear waste, with the Swiss protocol calling for several thousand tonnes to be sent to Russia over the 30-year period.

Such amounts mean billions of dollars for cash-strapped Russia, but political pressure from environmental groups has already ended an agreement to process Finnish nuclear waste.

## Vicious cycle of global warming hits ocean

By Michael Kahn  
Reuters

GLOBAL WARMING could disrupt the ability of a large portion of the world's oceans to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, setting off a vicious cycle in which the earth gets even hotter, researchers said on Thursday.

Evidence from a new study indicates that some conditions scientists think will occur with global warming may promote the growth of algae in the Southern Ocean that do not absorb carbon dioxide as well as others.

These waters around Antarctica make up 10 per cent of the world's oceans and play a significant role in soaking up carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas seen as one of the main causes of global warming.

Kevin Arrigo, a biologist at NASA-Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland, who led the study, said.

"The capacity for the Southern Ocean to take up carbon dioxide might be reduced," Arrigo said in a telephone interview.

Since carbon dioxide contributes to global

warming, scientists believe a growing build-up of the gas would make the environmental problem increasingly worse.

Plants "breathe" carbon dioxide and help control the balance of the gas in the atmosphere. About half the plants that use this gas are in the oceans, Arrigo said.

But the earth's rising temperatures create an environment where some phytoplankton, called diatoms, begin to dominate over single-celled algae called Phaeocystis Antarctica, which are better at absorbing carbon dioxide.

"Given the same amount of nutrients, Phaeocystis Antarctica takes up almost two times as much carbon dioxide," Arrigo said.

Writing in the journal Science, the researchers said increasing stratification of the Southern Ocean, or differences in water density at different depths, was the change causing diatoms to dominate the environment.

Normally there is very little stratification in the Southern Ocean because frequent strong winds keep the waters well

mixed, Arrigo said.

But the increased precipitation that scientists predict will happen with global warming means more diluted water is sitting on the top, making the waters more difficult to mix.

This causes the death of the more efficient carbon-eating phytoplankton.

"If global warming continues with increased precipitation in the Southern Ocean, there will be more stratification and that will favour diatoms," Arrigo said.

The study, which took place during a month-long expedition during the Antarctic summer, was also one of the first to show that some types of algae absorb carbon dioxide better than others.

Arrigo said knowing how much atmospheric carbon dioxide the oceans use is important for scientists when trying to predict climate change.

"We need to understand the capacity of the world's oceans to take up all this carbon dioxide," he said. "At some point the ocean might reach its limit and shut off."

## Killer bees make their debut in California as nature imitates Hollywood

By Karen Lowe  
Agence France Presse

"KILLER BEES arrive" screamed one headline that seemed like Hollywood disaster film hype but signalled a real invasion of a deadly species of bee that officials say are here to stay.

Photos of the fierce hybrid of African and European bees appeared in the Los Angeles Daily News hovering over a map of sprawling Los Angeles County like so many troops about to hit the beach at Normandy.

Cato Fiksdal, the Los Angeles County agricultural commissioner, warned Californians of the lethal potential of swarms of Africanised bees. But personally, he was sanguine about the bee with a long rap sheet.

"There are lots of risks in life. We learn to adapt. This is another we'll have to adapt to," he said. "I'm not overly concerned."

Asked what were the possibilities of eradicating them, he responded: "None. They will be with us forever."

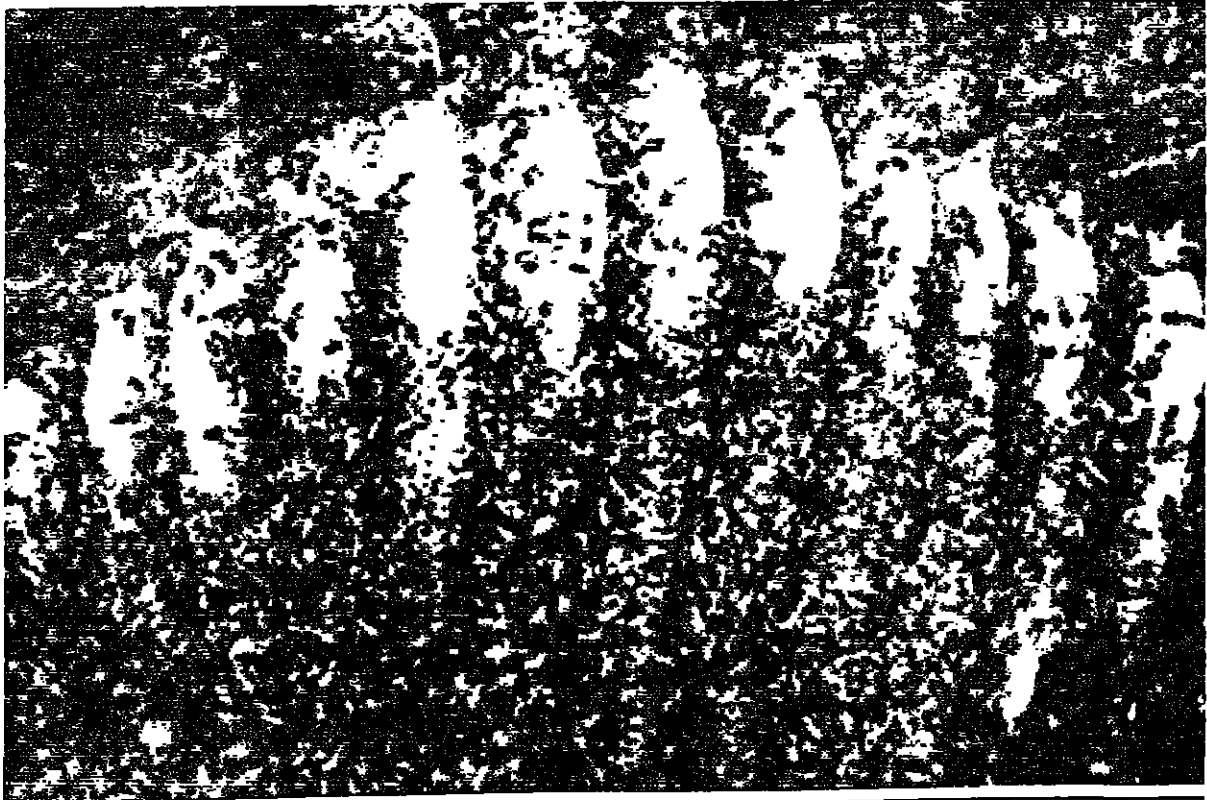
The "killer bees" respond with lightning speed, perceiving threats from 16 metres away, and can be agitated by vibrations from power equipment 30 metres or more from the nest.

Their potential to kill has spawned hysterical newspaper and exaggerated magazine articles that inevitably led to Hollywood, which has produced several pictures portraying massive swarms invading cities and towns.

The bees have killed five Americans since migrating through Mexico from South America. They were first spotted in California late last year in a suburban Lawndale apartment building in Los Angeles County.

Like their European counterpart, the African bee produces honey and can only sting once. But what separates it from its tamer cousins is the ferocity and persistence of its attacks.

"They are deadly when aggressive," Fiksdal said. "If you disturb their colony they will come out in



Killer bees at hive (file photo)

Unlike European honey bees... African bees will chase an attacker for a quarter of a mile and sting by the hundreds

mass. They will continue their attack relentlessly until they feel the threat is gone."

Unlike European honey bees which will pursue threats in small numbers for a short distance, African bees will chase an attacker for a quarter of a mile and sting by the hundreds.

Suggested response to an attack is to find shelter in a car or building. If there is no shelter, Fiksdal said, "just run." For those who seek escape by

jumping in the water, the bees will hover and wait for the victim to surface.

So far, in the past eight years they have spread through parts of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, and Fiksdal said they could migrate further north and east depending on their ability to adapt to shifting temperatures.

The African bee arrived in the hemisphere in the 1950s when Brazilian geneticists decided that

they might be better suited to South America's tropical climate than European honey bees.

But they were released from the breeding programme before selection was completed and have spread at a remarkable 480 kilometres per year ever since, making their U.S. arrival inevitable.

Their incursion into California has consequences for agriculture, a multibillion dollar industry in this state.

Beekeepers may provide the best defence, according to entomologist Kirk Visscher of the University of California at Riverside, as the feral African bees and the European bees in apiaries compete for food.

To ensure that European hives remain pure, beekeepers will regularly have to change the queen bee to ensure the hive is not colonised by African bees and their queens.

## Hollywood heart throb Leonardo DiCaprio denies damage to island beach

Agence France Presse

"TITANIC" FILM star Leonardo DiCaprio tried to calm an environmental row raging over his new movie Monday, insisting he loved Thailand and would not tolerate any damage being done to a picturesque beach used in filming.

Environmental campaigners claim alterations made to Maya beach in southern Phi Phi island national park for the movie "The Beach" will ruin the eco-system of an idyllic bay.

But DiCaprio, star of the multi-Oscar winning "Titanic," said he would never be associated with a project that damaged the environment.

"Before I arrived in Thailand, I was assured that nothing done by 20th Century Fox would have any detrimental effect whatsoever, and that the island of Phi Phi would be returned to its natural state."

"In my two weeks here I have seen extraordinary measures being taken to protect the island, and I pledge to remain vigilant

and tolerate nothing less than these maximum efforts," he said in a statement.

"Preservation of the environment has always been of the utmost importance to me and I would never be part of any project that did anything to harm nature."

"I love Thailand. This country is magnificent, the people are especially warm and welcoming and I feel privileged to be filming here."

DiCaprio on Saturday became the target of protests against the movie when campaigners mounted a demonstration on boats outside the luxury hotel at southern Phuket Island where he is staying.

Others demanding access to the film set argued with Fox representatives on a police launch guarding the entrance to Maya bay at Phi Phi.

Campaigners claim producers Fox have churned up dunes, ruined the ecosystem of the beach by planting palm trees and ripped up vegetation vital to binding the beach together.

They say that come the rainy season later this year sands will be swept into the sea and damage exquisite natural coral.

Fox denies the charges, and has defeated two attempts to win injunctions from opponents who want shooting to be halted until a full court case in March.

The film giant has already shelled out for a \$138,800 bond against ecological damage. A fresh petition has been lodged with the court calling on them to pay a \$2.7 million bond against environmental damage.

The row over the film has been brewing for months and has involved protests, sit-ins and a letter campaign in Thai newspapers.

"The Beach," based on Alex Garland's cult novel of the same name, tells the story of a traveller whose infatuation with Thailand leads him to a remote island inhabited by a community of displaced Westerners.



## OPEC oil revenue reportedly fell \$62b in '98

PARIS (AFP) — OPEC countries' oil revenue plunged by \$62 billion, or 35.6 per cent in 1998 to their lowest levels in almost a decade, the specialist weekly Petrostrategies said Monday.

Total oil revenue for the 11 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fell to \$112 billion in 1998 from \$175 billion the previous year, the weekly said.

"It is the lowest level of revenue since 1989," the weekly said, and was due to a steep fall in oil prices, with the average price of OPEC oil falling 37 per cent to \$11.8 from \$18.6 in 1997.

The biggest sufferer was Indonesia, whose revenue fell 42.8 per cent to just over \$3 billion from \$5.3 billion in 1997, according to figures compiled by Petrostrategies.

But most other OPEC members suffered a fall in revenue of at least 30 per cent, with the exception of Qatar, whose oil income fell 29.9 per cent to \$3.6 billion from \$5.2 billion.

Iraq boosted its oil revenue by 11.8 per cent to \$5.16 billion, but this was only because it doubled the amount of oil it exported under an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

Petrostrategies also found that OPEC oil exports increased 1.9 per cent in 1998 to an average 26.4 million barrels a day from 25.9 million in 1997, despite pledges by OPEC members to cut output in a bid to boost prices.

Meanwhile, the global slump in oil prices has hit Russia hard, slashing nearly 30 per cent from the country's revenue from oil exports last year despite a 10 per cent increase in production, statistics released

by the customs service showed.

Russia's oil exports for the first 11 months of 1998 were worth 29.7 per cent less than in the same period in 1997, while exports for the period totalled 116.43 million tonnes of oil, a 10 per cent increase on the same period in 1997.

Because of the drastically reduced oil prices, revenue from the Russian oil sales dropped by \$3.76 billion in 1997. Revenue had reached \$8.89 billion in 1997.

To compensate for the price fall, oil companies are expected to announce that in 1998, oil production increased to a new record level of 295-300 million tonnes.

Exports of gas, crude and derived products make up 42 per cent of Russia's foreign currency earnings.

Russia is the world's third largest producer of oil.

## Dollar's dominance is over, Miyazawa says

TOKYO (AFP) — The dollar's dominance in global markets is over following the euro's launch, Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday.

"The dollar's one-currency dominance is over," Miyazawa said in an interview with Kyodo News.

"For the countries that think pegging their currencies to the dollar alone is no good, I propose their currencies be linked to a basket in some cases," he told the news agency.

Miyazawa said global currency issues would be discussed at a Group of Eight (G-8) summit in Cologne after the launch of the euro.

"The currency issue will be on the agenda of the Cologne summit," Miyazawa said.

"I hope some ways (to stabilise currency markets) will come out of the session. For now, I hope exchanges of information and policy consultations will be promoted further though these may not

grab the headlines," he added. Leaders of the G-8 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States — are to meet in the German city in June for their annual summit.

Miyazawa also said some steps needed to be explored at the summit to prevent hedge fund operations involving large, unchecked capital flows across borders from badly affecting emerging market economies.

Hedge funds are considered to be a major force behind the financial storm that swept Asia during the past 18 months.

On Brazil's economic woes, Miyazawa said global markets reacted favourably to its decision over the weekend to float the real.

He said it was necessary to watch the currency's movements and the Brazilian government's policy for a little longer before judging at what level the real should settle.

## Foreign investment in Israel plunged 40 per cent in 1998

TEL AVIV (AFP) — After several years of steady growth, foreign investment in Israel plunged 40 per cent in 1998 from the previous year, the Bank of Israel reported Monday.

Total foreign investment in Israeli firms, including purchases in companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges, fell to \$2 billion last year from \$3.45 billion in 1997 and \$2.82 billion in 1996, the bank said.

The drop was due to a fall-off in purchases of Israeli stocks on the New York and Tel Aviv bourses from \$1.9 billion in 1997 to \$525 million in 1998, the lowest level in four years.

The bank, in its report, said much of this decline was due to the lower number of shares issued by Israeli companies in New York following the market's decline early in the year.

The tendency accelerated in August, September and October when foreign investors sold off some \$300 million in holdings on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange due to the financial crises in Asia and Russia.

Direct foreign investment in Israeli companies remained stable at \$1.4 billion. Meanwhile, the Israeli

Treasury's top official warned Monday he might recommend suspending parliamentary approval of the 1999 draft budget if lawmakers insert too many changes in it.

"In this situation... it is likely I will recommend before the prime minister and finance minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to consider the possibility of continuing to manage the Israeli economy over the next half year on the basis of the 1998 budget," Treasury Director General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb said.

Zilberfarb said he preferred not to suspend the budget process but that he did not want to see it approved "at any price."

The government's 1999 spending package, totalling some 215 billion shekels (\$52.6 billion), has been held up in parliament since Netanyahu's governing coalition collapsed in December over the Wye River peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Since the start of the year, the government has been operating under a legal provision that allows the previous year's budget to remain in force.

Israelis are set to vote in general elections on May 17. In the meantime, legisla-

tors inside the lame-duck coalition have been seeking to insert spending increases directed at their constituencies.

Treasury Budget Director David Milgrom said Monday the extra spending proposals jeopardised this year's deficit target of 2.0 per cent of gross domestic product.

"The 1999 budget will be forced to carry a line of unplanned expenses, including financing for parliamentary elections totalling some half billion shekels. Increased allocations for coalition agreements threaten our ability to meet the budget framework," Milgrom said.

On Sunday, the parliamentary finance committee failed to muster enough votes to clear the budget arrangements law for a plenum vote. The legislation is needed to put the budget into effect.

Zilberfarb warned that if the extra expenditures were approved by parliament the new government would face a difficult dilemma of either saddling the economy with the added burden or cancelling the added spending.

"The economy will pay the price for unnecessary changes in policy," he said.

## Brazil currency float puts onus on fiscal discipline

WASHINGTON (R) — Brazil said Monday it will initially defend its free floating currency with higher interest rates, while pressing ahead with reforms to put its fiscal house in order.

Finance Minister Pedro Malan said he had convinced the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the U.S. Treasury that a floating exchange rate was the best option for Brazil, discarding a new peg to the dollar or a rigid currency board.

Malan said markets had reacted "reasonably" and would set a new value for the Brazilian currency, the real, over the next few days, according to supply and demand.

He said Brazil did not need more financial aid and had not sought early disbursements from a \$41.5 billion international rescue package marshaled by the IMF in November to defend the real from speculative attacks in the wake of the Asian and Russian crises.

"We are in a different world in which we are not defending a given exchange rate peg, and therefore there is no loss of reserves to defend the peg," Malan told a press conference at the IMF after a weekend of emergency talks.

Brazil's central bank announced earlier Monday that it would allow the real to float.

abandoning a policy of holding the currency within a broad range against the dollar. The bank said it would only intervene occasionally, and in a limited way, to curb steep swings in the currency's value.

The real, which lost 15 per cent of its value last week, was trading down at 1.59 reals per dollar on Monday afternoon in Sao Paulo, 10 per cent weaker than its Friday close.

Malan said Brazil's interest rates would have to remain high for the near future, and any reduction would largely hinge on country's ability to rein in its large fiscal deficit, equal to eight per cent of the country's output.

"I am recommending that the committee on monetary policy discuss a widening of the interest rate band to allow the active use of interest rates, with an initial upward bias that may be required to maintain low inflation," he said in a statement issued after the press conference.

He said monetary policy will respond promptly to any significant depreciation of the real and keep inflation low.

Malan said it was too early to estimate the impact the devaluation will have on growth in the world's eighth largest economy, which has been plunged into a recession by global financial turmoil.

But he said inflation would

continue to be single-digit this year, most likely around 6-7 per cent.

With a floating exchange rate, Malan said Brazil had to redouble its efforts to achieve fiscal austerity to maintain confidence in its finances.

He said the government will seek to speed up reforms of the social security and tax systems in congress.

"Additional measures will be adopted, as appropriate, to deal with the fiscal impact of the exchange rate devaluation," he said.

Malan said Brazil was committed to fulfilling the fiscal targets laid out for the next three years in a programme agreed to with the IMF last November in return for financial support.

But he said some targets will have to be renegotiated to take into account the new exchange rate.

"We will have to redefine the basic framework and some of the key parameters of the programme," he said.

The IMF said in a statement it would send a team to Brazil soon to draw up a new monetary and macro-economic framework.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus welcomed Brazil's assurances that it will continue its fiscal reform and privatisation programmes and keep inflation down.

## China sees shortfall of 16m jobs in 1999

BEIJING (AFP) — Sixteen million Chinese will be unable to find work this year as the labour market is flooded with laid-off workers, fresh graduates and demobilised soldiers, according to an official estimate reported Sunday.

The projection comes as China is hit by an apparent wave of social unrest, despite warnings from the leadership that it will crack down hard on any form of "instability" during the coming year.

"China's experience in the last two years clearly shows that the fight against unemployment is a more arduous task than controlling inflation," Ministry of Labour and Social Security expert Mo Rong told the China Daily Business Weekly.

Mo said the number of people seeking jobs is expected to hit 30 million in 1999, but with economic growth slowing, only around 14 million new positions would be created.

"This leaves almost 16 million people who will be unable to find a position through the labour market," Mo told the paper, adding concerted efforts were needed to create jobs and provide training programmes for the unemployed.

The government's attempts to throw off the burden of a cradle-to-grave welfare system and reform ailing state-owned enterprises has led to millions of redundancies every year and sparked fears of growing social unrest.

Retired and laid-off workers frequently stage protests in major Chinese cities, sometimes blocking roads and railways, or sitting in at their places of work in protest at their employers' failure to pay them.

China does not allow any trade unions or labour organisations other than those sanctioned by the Communist Party and regularly throws unofficial labour organisers into prison.

The government has already laid off more than 10 million workers from loss-making state enterprises and plans to cut six million more jobs in 1999.

President Jiang Zemin vowed in a speech to the nation to "nip in the bud" any form of social unrest as China entered 1999, a year of politically sensitive anniversaries.

Jiang highlighted unemployment as the problem most likely to lead to social unrest. Ailing state-owned companies, dwindling rural incomes, rising crime rates and official corruption were also cited.

## EU ministers reject call for early launch of euro cash

BRUSSELS (AFP) — European Union (EU) finance ministers Monday rebuffed a call for Belgium for the introduction of euro notes and coins to be brought forward from Jan. 1, 2002.

Belgian Finance Minister Jean-Jacques Viseur said the gap between the launch of the euro on financial markets at the start of this month and the moment when notes and coins will be available to citizens had left the public confused and frustrated.

"Understandably, citizens have difficulty understanding why they have to wait until 2002 to have the euro in their pockets," Viseur said at the meeting with his EU counterparts here.

"We should not be too timid in examining whether it is possible to bring forward the introduction of the notes and coins," he added.

But the idea found little enthusiasm among other EU countries and was declared "technically impossible" by

European Central Bank (ECB) Governor Wim Duisenberg.

EU Finance Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy said a majority of ministers were opposed to changing the decision.

His officials would carry out "one final check" of whether the move to bring forward the introduction of euro cash was feasible.

"We will do that very quickly but the basic feeling was that it was not appropriate to change the agreed timetable," he said.

De Silguy indicated that bringing forward the introduction of notes and coins would create "significant logistical problems" and also undermine the planning of large companies and public administrations who were counting on a Jan. 1, 2002 date.

"One of the strong points of the euro has been that the dates announced have always been respected," French Finance Minister

Dominique Strauss-Kahn said.

Viseur said he saw no practical reason why the notes and coins could not be introduced on Oct. 1, 2001, three months earlier.

Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Elio di Rupo has called for the introduction to be brought forward by a full year.

The commission has always been cool about proposals to bring the launch date forward, arguing that the full three years is likely to be needed to complete technical preparations including the conversion of millions of cash registers and coin-operated machines.

Central banks have also indicated that most of the three years will be necessary to complete the production of the 50 billion coins and 30 billion notes needed.

Britain — which is not in the euro zone — also cast doubt on whether early introduction would be feasible.

### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1 Pile  
5 Open-hand blow  
9 Freeze  
14 Ms. Fitzgerald  
15 Coarse greens  
16 Core group  
17 Montgomery  
18 Cliff movie  
19 Church instrument  
20 Take it easy  
21 Prepares to propose  
22 Request another hearing  
25 Remaining  
26 Function  
27 Transform  
30 987-65-4321  
31 gip  
33 Actress  
34 Cannon  
35 Cliff movie  
37 Blood of gods  
38 Raw mineral  
40 Fountain orders  
41 Cliff movie  
42 Sacred ceremony  
43 D.C. VIP  
44 Extreme  
45 Sitar  
46 Island off Donegal  
48 Denver pro  
49 Soviet dictator  
50 Reject  
51 Russian ballet  
52 Cliff movie  
53 Sily  
54 Tightrope, e.g.  
55 Word  
56 Sward choice  
57 Disagreeable  
58 responsibility  
59 Hades river  
60 DOWN  
61 Use an ax  
62 Whiskey  
63 Saints  
64 Day  
65 California  
66 ballplayer

5 Cast-iron pan  
6 Moltan rock  
7 Haley or Trebek  
8 According to  
9 Cliff movie  
10 Insertion indicator  
11 Border  
12 River of Russia  
13 Farm enclosures  
14 Stand on hind legs  
15 French soldier's cap  
16 Lover of Eros  
17 Meta of a very showy bird  
18 Poorest, excusewise  
19 Navigational system  
20 Ed's intro of Johnny  
21 Section of track  
22 "of Liberty"  
23 Go-ahead  
24 Japanese drama  
25 "School Scandal"  
26 Cliff movie  
27 Persian Gulf  
28 Head cavities  
29 Couple  
30 Majors well  
31 Isolated  
32 Peaky insects  
33 Snow gliders  
34 Singer Turner  
35 Part of U.A.E.  
36 Part of a leg  
37 Andes nation  
38 Squal  
39 Shed tears  
40 Magic spell

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n' Jeff



### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOFLY

GOBUM

YIRAWA

FLUIFT

Ans: THE

Yesterday's

Jumbles: PATIO HABIT

Answer: RARITY EXPOSE

common — AIRPORT TAXIS

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

75 in 40 minutes. Where did you hide those numbers?

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE ROOSTER WAS STOPPED FOR SPEEDING.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)







# Australian Open just avoids Black Monday

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Australian Open top seed Marcelo Rios and hard-hitting Goran Ivanisevic failed to make it out of the casualty ward on Monday turning the men's contest into a lottery.

Three seeded players went out in the first three hours and two others — American Venus Williams and Spaniard Alex Corretja — fought back from the brink. If Japanese wildcard Takao Suzuki had held his

nerve and his serve, in the ninth game of the fourth set, against No. 2 seed Corretja, the men's contest would have lost the world's top three players on the first day.

Rios, the World No. 2 from Chile and last year's losing finalist, and Croatian 11th seed Ivanisevic, runner-up three-times at Wimbledon, both cited back problems. Rios has a stress fracture.

World No. 1 Pete Sampras had already decided he was too tired to tackle two weeks in the Melbourne heat.

Corretja proved his toughness by hanging on for the sort of win future champions look back on as a turning point.

And Pat Rafter reopened wounds over the Petr Korda drug controversy, saying the Czech should not be allowed to play at the Open after his positive steroids test at last year's Wimbledon.

Williams, beaten by a resurgent Steffi Graf in Sydney last week, was given a torrid examination by Croatia's Silvija Talaja before the American fifth seed prevailed over the World No. 82 in a 150-minute slog in the heat.

"Today was an all-time low for the last two weeks, but there's always a chance to go up. When you're at your lowest, you can definitely go up," said Williams, who will play Sweden's Asa Carlsson in the second round.

Corretja was made to squirm in a five-set dogfight with Sukuzi, who was playing in his first Grand Slam tournament.

A monumental upset was on the cards before Corretja levelled the match with a tiebreaker in the hour-long fourth set.

"It wasn't much fun out there today, but it's still nice to keep winning even if it was so tough and you are close to losing. I wasn't playing my best," said Corretja.

The Spaniard, a losing French Open finalist last year, typified the stuff champions are made of.

"Even when you're losing, you keep trying and keep trusting yourself," he said.



Germany's Anke Huber makes a return to Irina Spirlea of Romania during their first round match 18 January at the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne. Huber defeated Spirlea 7-5, 6-4 (AFP Photo)

That could not be said of Romanian 13th seed Irina Spirlea who went tamely out to Anke Huber of Germany, a semi-finalist here last year but unseeded this time.

"I lost to her a few weeks ago, so I wasn't sure about today's match," said Huber. "I won all our previous matches, but I think she didn't feel great today, she really didn't try hard."

Thomas Johansson of Sweden, the men's 16th seed, must also have wondered what happened. He went from 2-1 up to lose a tie-break 7/4 and the last set to love against Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador.

Ivanisevic's early departure gave British sixth seed

Tim Henman an extra reason to smile after he swept aside Morocco's Karim Alami in straight sets in just 79 minutes.

He had been drawn to play Ivanisevic in a possible fourth round encounter.

Henman put aside the memories of last year's humiliation of losing to French qualifier Jerome Golmard in the opening round to hammer the hapless Alami.

Women's top seed Lindsay Davenport cruised through against Spain's Gala Leon Garcia and said the World No 1 ranking had put no added pressure on her.

"I never expected to get to No. 1 and I don't think too

many people did. So for me, it is almost like the icing on the cake," she said.

Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna, in her first appearance in three years, strode through the first round, beating Anne-Gaëlle Sidot of France in straight sets.

And local favourite Mark Philippoussis steamed through in similar fashion against Geoff Grant of the United States, winning 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

But for a few anxious moments on Monday the Australian Open organisers must have wondered if they would have any cake at all as the grim reaper hovered over Melbourne Park.



Australia's Pat Rafter finesses a shot over the net to Oliver Gross of Germany during their first round match at the 1999 Australian Open 18 January. Rafter defeated Gross 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 (AFP photo)

## Capriati fighting hard on the comeback trail

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Jennifer Capriati is ridding a habit of digging herself out of holes.

Trying to resurrect a career left in tatters by drug and shoplifting charges six years ago, the 20-year-old former World No. 6 won a hard-fought victory Monday in the first round of the Australian Open against Australian Evie Dominikovic.

After being forced to prove herself in qualifying rounds in Sydney last week, Capriati battled for her 5-7, 6-3, 8-6 win over Dominikovic, ranked 211.

"I'm still hanging in there and really just trying — I'm very happy I won today," said Capriati, nursing a lingering rotator cuff injury with an icepack.

"I haven't pulled out a match like that in a long time, and it has always been that I've been the loser," she said. "After a while it just brings you so down. You just have to keep fighting. This time I just gave all I've got. I'm happy that I fought, and even when I got myself in the holes, I was able to get myself out."

Capriati, 22, from Wesley Chapel, Florida, was a set and 3-0 down to Dominikovic before rallying.

Dominikovic served for the match at 6-5 in the third set but at 15-15 produced two costly double faults to enable the American, now ranked 101, to break back.

Capriati last won a tournament in Sydney in 1993, before her career was dragged down by drug and shoplifting charges.



Jennifer Capriati

The 1991 Wimbledon and U.S. Open semifinalist and 1992 Olympic champion was arrested on drug charges in 1994 and went into rehabilitation.

She put down the racket for one year, nine months, four weeks. She says she is a stronger person since her fall, and feels bolstered by Monday's win.

"I'm pretty hungry," she said. "I think this match does a lot for me."

Capriati has forged a friendship with veteran German Steffi Graf, a winner of 21 Grand Slam titles who, late in

her career, is keeping watch over the youngster.

"I know she's going through a hard time with her injuries and trying to come back but we are just there, always supporting each other," Capriati said.

Graf said she was trying "to be there" for Capriati.

"It sounds strange, but with Jennifer we have some kind of connection," said Graf. "I think she has so much talent and I like her as a person."

Dominikovic, 18, was disappointed at missing a chance to progress beyond the first round of a major for the first time.

## Cash disclosures threaten shaky Scud-Newcombe Cup truce

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash threatened to break the shaky truce in the Australian Davis Cup team camp on Monday when he claimed Mark Philippoussis despised captain John Newcombe.

Tennis Australia was hoping the upheavals of last year would be overcome when Philippoussis agreed to return to the Cup team, albeit initially only for the first round tie against Zimbabwe in Harare in April.

But Cash, a part-time coach to Philippoussis, reopened the wounds with an attack on Newcombe in a television interview Monday.

Cash said Philippoussis had no respect for Newcombe and he believed Newcombe did not respect last year's beaten U.S. Open finalist.

"I think it takes a lot of guts for a guy like Mark to go to Zimbabwe, go away from home, and be sitting down on the court with a captain who clearly doesn't respect him and he doesn't respect the captain," said the 1987 Wimbledon champion.

"But he's going to put all that aside, do the training, do the work that's asked of him and sit down on the court and win for your country when you despise the

person next to you."

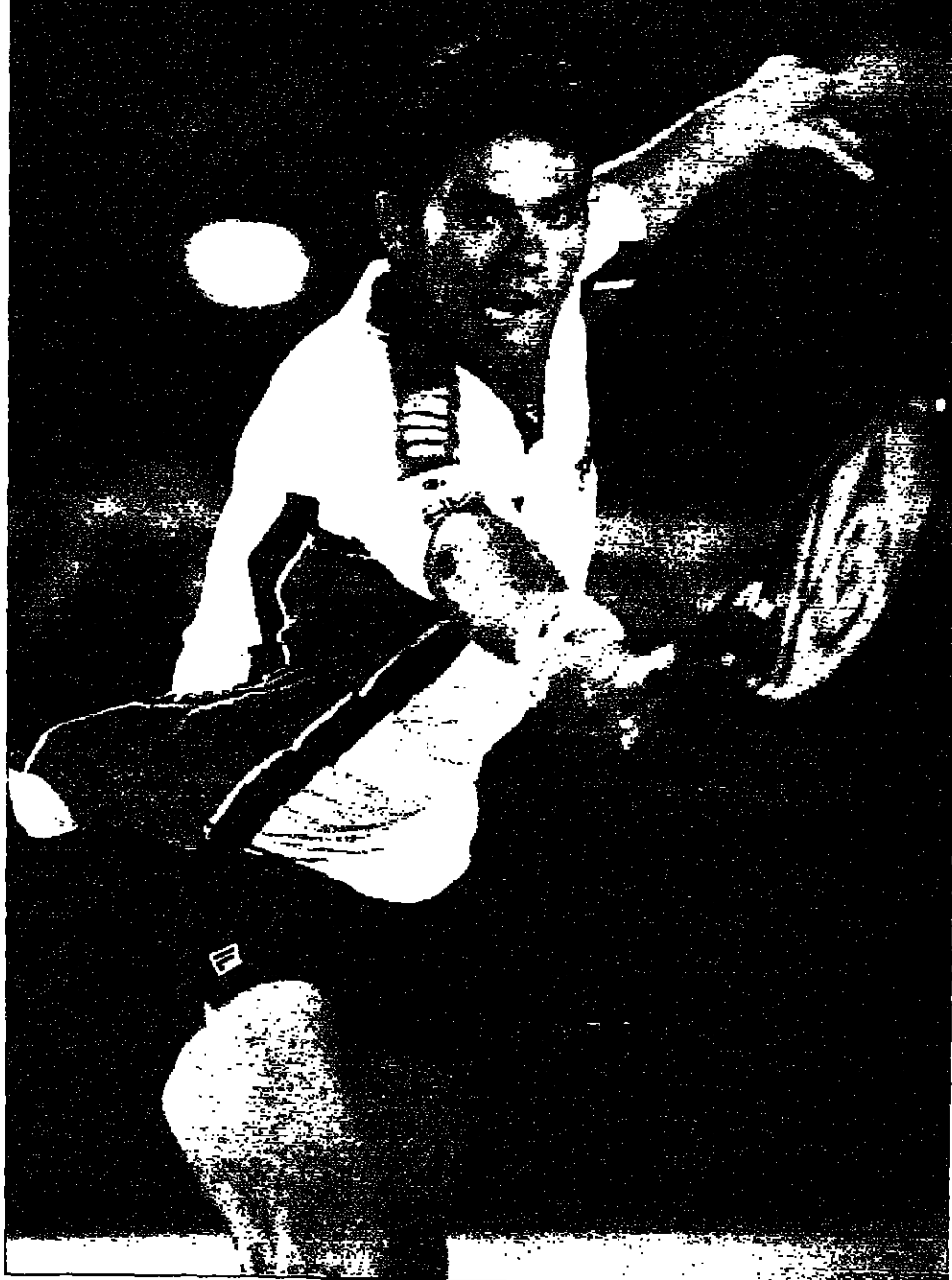
Philippoussis has made it clear he has not made peace with Newcombe and Cup coach Tony Roche on a personal level.

He was recently quoted in a magazine article as saying of the Cup tie: "We get on the court, play the match, we win and I leave. I've got nothing to do with Newcombe and I've got nothing to do with Roche."

Philippoussis angered his former Cup teammates last April when he arrived to watch the first round loss to Zimbabwe in Mildura, having already declined to play due to what he considered lack of support from Newcombe and Roche.

Newcombe has made several attempts to heal the rift. But Philippoussis perceived a slight when Roche sat with fellow Australian Pat Rafter's support group in their U.S. Open final last September.

Philippoussis won his opening round Australian Open match against American Geoff Grant in straight sets late Monday.



Mark Philippoussis of Australia stretches for a return to Geoff Grant of the U.S. during the first round of the Australian Open in Melbourne 18 January. Philippoussis is leading 6-3, 3-1 with play continuing (AFP photo)

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:463-4144	CINEMA TEL:463-4144	CINEMA TEL:5699238	CINEMA TEL:5677420	CINEMA TEL:5934793	CINEMA TEL:5934793	Hispan Yanes Theatre TEL:4625135
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	MERCURY RISING Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:15, 3:30, 12:30	ALWAD MAHROUS TBA' AL WAZIR Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:15, 3:30, 12:30	SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ALWAD MAHROUS TBA' AL WAZIR Shows: 12:30, 2:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	LETHAL WEAPON 4 Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	MULAN Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	

Listings for films and showing times as received by cinemas and their advertising agencies.



## Powerful South Korean IOC official denies misconduct

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A powerful South Korean member of the IOC executive board on Monday denied any wrongdoing in connection with the Salt Lake City bribery scandal.

Kim Un-Yong confirmed he had received a letter demanding explanations from IOC officials investigating allegations of misconduct by IOC members during Salt Lake's bid for the Winter Games.

Kim, 67, claimed that allegations against him were an attempt to defame him.

"I did not do anything that I should be ashamed of," he told reporters. "I don't even feel it necessary to comment on it, because I have absolutely nothing to do with the scandal."

"I already clarified my case and this will be cleared up in the IOC's executive board meeting on Jan. 24."

The IOC is investigating reports of cash payments, extravagant gifts and other favors to some of its members in exchange for votes leading to the selection of Salt Lake City as host of the 2002 Winter Games.

Kim is the biggest name among the 13 International Olympic Committee members linked to the scandal.

He is part of the IOC's powerful inner circle and considered a possible candidate to succeed Juan Antonio Samaranch as president.

SportIntern, a German-based newsletter specializing in Olympic news, said Kim was implicated in a "minor offense" and was unlikely to face expulsion or other punishment from the IOC.

Samaranch told The Associated Press last week that 13 IOC members had been implicated in the Salt Lake investigation.

He said nine had been accused of "serious" misconduct which could result in expulsions, while four others were cited for minor violations.

Kim said he was asked by the IOC to clarify his 1991 assistance in helping a Russian teen-age student enroll in a U.S. school at the request of Russian IOC member Vitaly Smirnov.

"It was simply an effort to help a friend," Kim said.

"Considering a difficult situation in Russia in 1991 after the former Soviet Union collapsed, I introduced the student to former Salt Lake Olympics chief Tom Welch. I did not receive any money or gift in return." Other details of the

arrangement were not revealed.

At the time, Salt Lake was bidding for the 1998 Winter Games, which awarded in 1994 to Nagano, Japan. In 1995, Salt Lake won the right to stage the 2002 Games.

Smirnov confirmed Monday that he also had received notification from the IOC that he was under investigation. He said he was asked for explanations regarding his request for free medical treatment of a Russian hockey player and for receiving a hunting rifle as a gift during a trip to Salt Lake.

He denied any wrongdoing.

Kim, an IOC member since 1986, has emerged as among the four most powerful figures on the committee. He's been a constant on the executive board since 1988, was a vice president from 1992-96 and is chairman of the radio and television commission.

Kim was a key figure in the running of the 1988 Seoul Olympics. He is president of the South Korean Olympic Committee, the World Taekwondo Federation and the General Assembly of International Sports Federations.

## Fiorentina crowned 'Winter Champions'

MILAN (AFP) — Fiorentina were crowned Italy's "Winter Champions" Sunday night — but celebrations were marred by yet another superb performance from their emerging title rivals Lazio.

Gabriel Batistuta bagged a hat-trick as Fiorentina rallied to beat 10-man Cagliari 4-2 in the afternoon, while Parma's chances of finishing top on goal difference evaporated when Lazio beat them 3-1 a few hours later.

Sunday ended with Fiorentina top on 35 points and Parma and Lazio joint second on 32 — two points ahead of AC Milan.

The unofficial winter title is awarded after 17 of the 34 matches in the season and statistics show that "Winter Champions" have a 68 per cent chance of winning the league title the following spring.

However, Lazio look an even better bet for the title after their convincing first ever win at Parma, their sixth consecutive victory coming a week after demolishing Fiorentina 2-0 at the Olympic stadium.

And Fiorentina's victory was not as impressive as the scoreline in Florence might suggest.

They were trailing 2-1 before volatile Brazilian Edmundo hit an equaliser and Batistuta brought up his hat-trick, taking his extraordinary goalscoring record this season to 17 in 17 matches.

It also preserved Fiorentina's immaculate home record with nine wins from nine games, albeit after a near upset.

Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni said: "I wasn't frightened of losing, but of missing a great opportunity."

"I would have been disappointed about missing out on that title," he said. "For the football we've played these last few months, we deserved it."

Parma coach Alberto Malesani was meanwhile sporting in defeat.

"We knew we'd be playing the most in-form team in the league," he said. "Unfortunately, football is sometimes decided by the odd episode. But it was a fair enough result, they defended well and were very dangerous on the break."

Giuseppe Signori brought high-flying Inter Milan



Fiorentina's Belgian, Luis Oliveira (L), chases the ball with Roma's Brazilian, Aldair do Nascimento, in an Italian League in Rome 01 March. Roma won, 4-1 (AFP photo)

Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson said: "The team are doing really well."

"It was hard in the first half, but we got the better of Parma in the second and we deserved to win. Perhaps not 3-1, but we did deserve it."

"Now we've got nearly all our team players available and it's a different thing," said the Swede.

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Giuseppe Signori brought high-flying Inter Milan

crashing down to earth by scoring one and making the other in a 2-0 victory for Bologna.

It was a bitter disappointment for Inter's much-vaunted strike trio of Roberto Baggio, Ronaldo and Ivan Zamorano, who had scored six goals between them the previous weekend.

Inter president Massimo Moratti ventured: "Perhaps the attacking trio makes the midfield suffer too much in an away game."

Coach Mircea Lucescu agreed: "He's right. Attacking with three strikers is a good move if you are able to score early. But if you don't make a good start, and if you even find yourself a goal down, it causes problems."

But both men insisted that Inter are not out of the

title running yet.

"Eight points are too many to make up only if we play like we did in the second half here today," said Moratti.

Fighting broke out as rival fans clashed before Venezia's 1-1 home draw with struggling champions Juventus, who are now languishing mid-table.

Police had to intervene after a coach full of Juventus fans arrived in the home team supporters' car park, instead of the one specially set aside for visiting fans, ANSA news agency reported.

Venezia, who are rock bottom of the Serie A, took a shock fifth minute lead through Francesco Pedone.

Juventus had to wait until the 53rd minute for Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca's equaliser — a

draw which only confirms a widespread belief that this is not going to be Juventus' season.

Couch Marcello Lippi, who is widely expected to replace Lucescu at Inter next summer, admitted: "We weren't very lucid in the first half and we didn't do much up front. That's why I brought forward Esnider's debut."

"He's only been with us since yesterday but he's already shown some good things and helped Fonseca to equalise. From that point onwards, we played better football and went looking for a win."

And that's what we aim to do from now on."

AC Milan ended a run of three draws with a 2-1 victory over a Perugia side who'd needed taxis to get to the San Siro stadium after tyres in their team coach were punctured by vandals.

Argentinian Andres Guglielminetto notched his first goal for the club since joining last summer and German Oliver Bierhoff headed the other before Perugia's Japanese playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata converted a 90th-minute penalty.

The spot-kick was followed by a sending-off for Milan goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi for a pointless, ugly foul on Perugia striker Cristian Bucchi.

Milan coach Alberto Zaccaroni said: "We had a good first half, attacking well both down the middle and from the wings. The whole team moved well."

"Unfortunately, we failed to exploit all the chances we created and in the second half we just concentrated on defending the result... in the last half hour we were playing in slippers not football boots."

AS Roma had no such trouble beating Vicenza 3-0 at the Olympic stadium. Eusebio Di Francesco, Marco Delvecchio and Carmine Gaurieri African ace Phil Masinga opened the scoring as Bari headed for a 3-1 victory over David Platt's ailing Sampdoria.

Salernitana drew 1-1 with Piacenza, with both sides having a man sent off in the 81st minute for a mutual kicking session, and Udinese drew 0-0 with Empoli.

## Frolander double winner on opening night

HOBBART, Australia (AP) — Sweden's Lars Frolander beat world champion Michael Klim of Australia twice on Monday night to take a pair of gold medals at the World Cup short-course swim meet.

Frolander led all the way to win the 100-metre freestyle convincingly in 48.32 seconds. Klim, whose 49.62 was slower than his heat time, was fourth.

In the 50-metre butterfly, Klim finished third behind Frolander.

Susie O'Neill of Australia took the 200-metre freestyle after trailing slightly for most of the race, but finished too strongly in 1:58.70 in

front of a trio of Swedes led by Josef Lillhage.

South Africa's Olympic champion Penny Heyns maintained her superiority over Australia's Samantha Riley in the 100-metre breaststroke, holding off the fast-finishing Australian to win in 1:07.59.

The South African said she went out a bit harder Monday and felt it in the final 25 metres.

"I expected Sam would be right there at the end, just like she was in Sydney," Heyns said.

Australian Matthew Dunn continued his dominance of the 400-metre medley, although he trailed Germany's Christian Keller at the

halfway mark. But he poured on the pressure on the breaststroke leg and won easily in 4:12.43.

World record holder Jenny Thompson of the United States continued her dominance of the 50-metre butterfly despite admitting to tiring towards the end.

Thompson, winner of five gold medals in the Sydney meet, went out fast but held off Johanna Sjöberg of Sweden and O'Neill to win in 58.00.

Later, she finished second behind Katrin Meissner of Germany in the 100-metre freestyle.

## Sainz hopes early exit is an omen

MONTE CARLO (AFP) — Double world champion Carlos Sainz believes his opening special stage exit in the Monte Carlo Rally here on Monday could herald a world championship-winning season.

The Spaniard was caught out by the treacherous Alpine ice and rain on the very first corner of the stage.

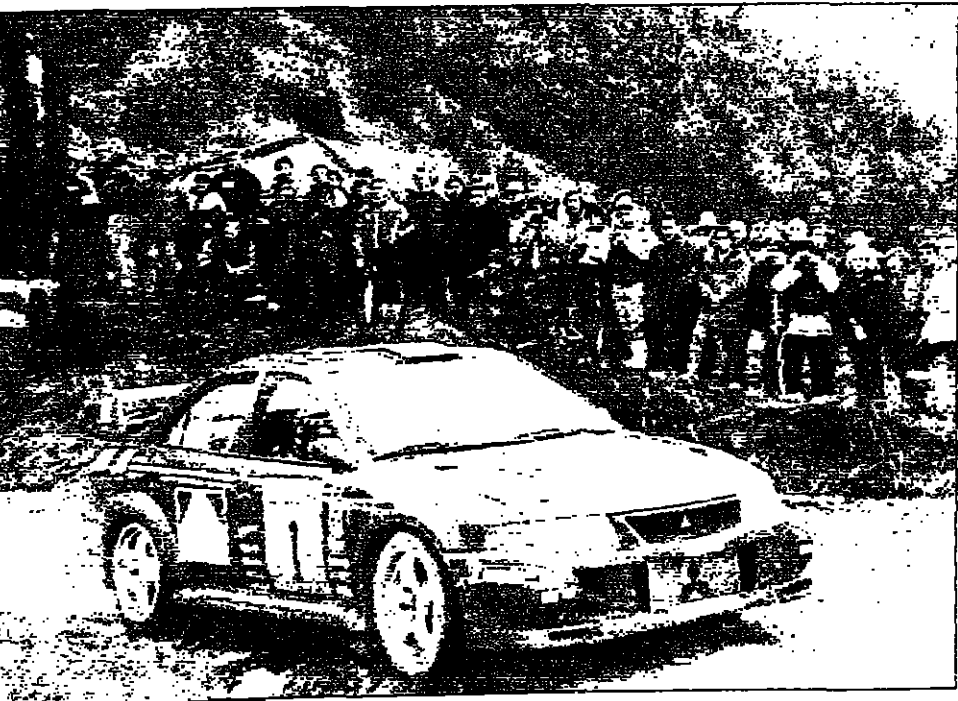
Sainz, who has won in Monte Carlo three times including last year, managed to get back onto the road.

"But just five miles later my Toyota again went off in the French Alps — this time bringing an end to his victory hopes in the first rally of the World Championship."

Despite his disappointment, he believes the poor start to the campaign could be a blessing in disguise.

Sainz said: "It's not the best way to start the season and I am really disappointed. On the other hand, I am reassured by the fact that each time I have won at Monte Carlo, I have not become world champion. Perhaps this exit is telling me I have a better chance of winning the world title this season."

The conditions were terrible. There was ice everywhere and we damaged the front of the car. Fortunately we could carry on despite



Finland's World Champion Tommi Makinen and his co-driver Risto Mannisenmaki negotiate a turn in their Mitsubishi Lancer during the special 31.15 km-stage of the 67th Monte-Carlo Rally Monday January 18, 1999. (AP photo)

the damage.

"However, the hood flew up and, because we could not see anything, we hit a patch of ice and spun off. We were too far off the road to restart."

Former world rally champion Colin McRae made a steady start on his debut for Ford, finishing the stage — the longest in the rally — in 10th place.

McRae, racing under appeal while the dispute over the legality of the new Ford Focus is decided, clocked 37min 56.4secs on the stage.

But the time was still nearly three-and-a-half minutes down on Tommi Makinen, who launched the defence of his world crown in impressive style.

Makinen, bidding for a fourth successive title, clocked 34:36.4 in his Mitsubishi — nearly 38secs quicker than second-placed Gilles Panizzi.

The Finn could not have wished for a better start, with Sainz — expected to be his chief rival for the world championship — going out so early.

The Toyota team quickly revealed that Sainz had damaged the front of the car in the first crash, which caused the bonnet to fly up later and send him crashing out.

Britain's Richard Burns also had a early scare as he went off the asphalt road, which was almost completely covered in ice.

But Burns, in his first outing for Subaru since replacing McRae, managed to keep going to finish the first stage in 12th place.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Jockey killed in South African race

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A jockey died of severe head injuries when his horse somersaulted over him 50 metres (yards) from the finish line, a newspaper said Monday. Jockey Craig Magua, 36, died after the accident Sunday at Gosforth Park. Magua's mount, 33-1 Whistling Nun, stumbled and fell for no apparent reason. The Star of Johannesburg reported. Magua is the first jockey in more than 40 years to die from injuries sustained in a race in South Africa, the SABA news agency said.

#### Argentinian injured in race mishap

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Argentinian sailor Hector Romero fractured his leg Monday when his boat capsized in a wind squall during the Laser Master world championship on Port Phillip Bay. Romero, at 76 the oldest competitor in the fleet, was one of five sailors who got into difficulties as the squall capsized more than 50 of the single-headed dinghies during the last race of the day. Romero was taken to a local hospital where he was reported in good condition. In Monday's first race, Britain's Mark Littlejohn scored his third successive win in the Apprentice Master Division (35-44 year age group) while Australian Jack Schlachter sailed to the lead in the Masters Division (45-54). In the opening round-robin of match-racing for the Soling class, American skipper Jeff Madrigali and his crew came through unbeaten with seven straight wins.

#### Former AC Milan player Savicevic rejoins Red Star

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Former AC Milan star Dejan Savicevic signed a six-month contract Monday with his old club, Red Star Belgrade. Savicevic, 32, had played a major role in AC Milan's European Champions Cup and other Italian league titles since 1992. He was known as the "genius" by AC Milan fans in Italy. But the skillful midfielder's career lately has been plagued by injuries. At last year's World Cup in France, Savicevic played only two lackluster games for Yugoslavia. After the tournament, Savicevic could not find a foreign contract. The Montenegrin played for Red Star between 1986 and 1991 and was part of the team when it won the European Champions Cup in 1991, beating Olympique Marseille in the finals in Bari, Italy, on penalty kicks. Savicevic's decision to sign with Red Star and play in the Yugoslav league was likely based on his desire to play for a Yugoslav team and find another foreign contract later this year or next year.

## Politicians adopt anti-doping code

BONN (AFP) — The Ministers of the 15 European Union member-states have adopted on Monday a joint eight-point programme against doping in sport after meeting in the Bonn suburb of Bad Godesberg.

This first informal meeting of the Ministers of Sport, working to guidelines from the Vienna summit held in December, adopted a common position ahead of the world doping conference to be held in Lausanne from February 2-4.

The meeting called for a European Union-level offensive against doping, the harmonisation and coordination of national measures and basic global standards.

The declaration says the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has a particular responsibility to lead the fight against doping and demanded that the IOC's planned anti-doping agency should be independent and open.

The European Union called for a system of sanctions against guilty competitors and also said that, when sport governing bodies failed to act decisively, that the onus was on the state to take action.

Ministers hope to hold another meeting before the Lausanne conference and will meet in Germany from May 31 to June 2 to put the finishing touches to an anti-doping package.

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